



HR0944

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HOUSE RESOLUTION

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WHEREAS, The members of the Illinois House of Representatives are saddened to learn of the death of Mark H. Ayers of Alexandria, Virginia, formerly of Peoria, who passed away on April 8, 2012; and

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WHEREAS, He was born on January 22, 1949, in Canton, to Edward Charles Ayers and Daunie Darlene Hawks Ayers; he married Deborah Selburg in Peoria, on May 24, 1998; and

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WHEREAS, Mark H. Ayers was President of the Building and Construction Trades Department, AFL-CIO; prior to becoming President of the BCTD, he served for 9 years as the director of the Construction and Maintenance Department at the International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers (IBEW); he was also a member of IBEW Local 34 in Peoria, since 1973, which he headed as business manager for 9 years; and

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WHEREAS, He was co-founder and chairman of the Central Illinois Chapter of the National Electrical Contractors Association-IBEW Local 34 Quality Connection; he was appointed to the National Joint Apprenticeship Training Committee; he served as a trustee and chairman of the NECA-IBEW Welfare and Pension Trust Funds; and he was a member of the board and on the executive committee of the Peoria Area Labor Management

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1 Council and the Labor Management Cooperative Health Program;
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3 WHEREAS, During his years with Local 34 and the
4 West-Central Illinois Building and Construction Trades
5 Council, he also served on the Board of Directors of the Peoria
6 Chapter of the American Red Cross, and was appointed by the
7 Mayor of the City of Peoria to serve on the Peoria Civic Center
8 Authority; he worked with the Junior League of Peoria to build
9 the Tri-Centennial Playground in Glen Oak Park commemorating
10 the 300th birthday of the founding of Peoria; and

11 WHEREAS, He was also instrumental in organizing 2 major
12 Labor Management committees in the Peoria area, including the
13 Peoria Area Labor Management (PALM) group which brought all
14 area unions and companies together including Caterpillar and
15 the UAW, and the Tri-County Construction labor management
16 committee, which brings all the building trades unions and
17 their respective contractors and associations together in a
18 positive Labor-Management setting; and

19 WHEREAS, He attended the George Meany Institute for Labor
20 Studies, the University of Wisconsin, and the University of
21 Illinois Institute of Labor and Industrial Relations; he also
22 served in the United States Navy as an aviator during the
23 Vietnam war era, and his commitment and devotion to our

1 nation's military veterans was amplified through his direct
2 involvement with the "Helmets to Hardhats" program, serving as
3 president of the AFL-CIO Union Veterans Council and through his
4 support of the Education Center of the Vietnam Veterans
5 Memorial Fund; and

6 WHEREAS, He was appointed by President Barack Obama to
7 serve on the Blue Ribbon Commission on America's Nuclear
8 Future; he also served as chairman of the National Coordinating
9 Committee for Multi Employer Plans and on the Board of
10 Directors of the Diabetes Research Institute; he was
11 Secretary-Treasurer of the Union Labor Life Insurance Company
12 and a Chairman of the Center for Construction Education and
13 Research CPWR; he was on the Board of Trustees for the AFL-CIO
14 Housing Investment Trust and was Labor Co-Chair for the Helmets
15 to Hardhats Program; he served on the Board of Directors of the
16 Nuclear Energy Institute and on the Board of Trustees of the
17 National Labor College; and he was on the Board of Directors of
18 the Elderly Housing Development and Operations Corporation
19 (EHDOC); and

20 WHEREAS, He was preceded in death by his father, Edward
21 Charles Ayers; and his stepfather, John Taylor; and

22 WHEREAS, Mark Ayers is survived by his wife, Deborah
23 Selburg Ayers; his mother, Daunie Hawks Ayers Taylor; his

1 brother, Edward Kent (Nancy) Ayers; his daughters, Aimee Ayers
2 (Bill) Mansfield and Tami (Bill) Lamprecht; his grandchildren,
3 Carlee, Porter, Brenin, Tatym, Taryn, and Taylor; and several
4 nieces and nephews; therefore, be it

5 RESOLVED, BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE
6 NINETY-SEVENTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, that
7 we mourn, along with his family and friends, the passing of
8 Mark Ayers; and be it further

9 RESOLVED, That a suitable copy of this resolution be
10 presented to the family of Mark Ayers as a symbol of our
11 sincere sympathy.