



HR0289

LRB099 08587 MST 28748 r

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HOUSE RESOLUTION

2 WHEREAS, The members of the Illinois House of
3 Representatives are saddened to learn of the death of James C.
4 Craven of Bellingham, Washington, who passed away on January
5 12, 2015; and

6 WHEREAS, James Craven was born in Greenfield, Tennessee on
7 August 7, 1925 to Arlie and Addie Craven; his family moved to
8 Chicago in the 1930s; he graduated from Lakeview High School,
9 the University of Illinois, and the University of Illinois Law
10 School; he served in the United States Army during World War
11 II; he married Gloria Phenev in November of 1950; and

12 WHEREAS, James Craven, along with his wife, started a law
13 practice in Springfield; he practiced law in Springfield until
14 1964, when he was elected to the Fourth District Appellate
15 Court; he served until 1981, when he resigned from the court
16 and resumed his law practice in Springfield; he began the
17 practice of offering legal help to students in the Public
18 Affairs Reporting Program at the University of Illinois at
19 Springfield and to reporters and editors through the Illinois
20 Press Association and Illinois Broadcasters' Association,
21 which continue to this day; and

22 WHEREAS, James Craven also involved himself in many other

1 cases and legislative matters involving First Amendment
2 issues; in the early 1990s, the Press Association honored him
3 with the creation and presentation of the James C. Craven First
4 Amendment Award; the highlight of his legal work began in 1985,
5 with the filing of the first of many cases he filed on behalf
6 of the African American and Hispanic communities in Illinois
7 and California under the federal Voting Rights Act; these
8 lawsuits resulted in changes in the form of municipal and
9 special district governments in Springfield, Danville, Peoria
10 and Chicago Heights, which are designed to provide minority
11 voters with the opportunity to elect representatives of their
12 choice; and

13 WHEREAS, James Craven is survived by his wife, Gloria; his
14 4 children, William (Terri Tork), Nancy (Jim Claypool), Don
15 (Denise), and Rebecca (Scott Linneman); and his 6
16 grandchildren, Joseph and David Craven, Anna and Meg Claypool,
17 and Charlie and Dory Linneman; therefore, be it

18 RESOLVED, BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE
19 NINETY-NINTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, that we
20 mourn the passing of James C. Craven, and extend our sincere
21 condolences to his family, friends, and all who knew and loved
22 him; and be it further

23 RESOLVED, That a suitable copy of this resolution be

1 presented to the family of James Craven as an expression of our
2 deepest sympathy.