



HR0621

LRB103 39712 ECR 70155 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 Randy
4 Nelson of Alton, formerly of East Alton, who passed away on
5 February 9, 2024; and

6 WHEREAS, Randy Nelson was born to Frances (Sypolt) Nelson
7 and Richard Nelson in Alton on August 12, 1966; he graduated
8 from Roxana High School; he studied fire service management
9 and earned a master's degree in fire service and homeland
10 security from Southern Illinois University Carbondale; he
11 served as a fire protection specialist in the U.S. Air Force,
12 where he was stationed at Elmendorf Air Force Base in Alaska
13 and then at Ellsworth Air Force Base in South Dakota; he
14 married Meghan Widenhoefer on September 25, 2020; and

15 WHEREAS, Randy Nelson worked as a firefighter at Olin
16 Corporation before being hired by the East Alton Fire
17 Department in 1989; he was promoted to lieutenant in 2000,
18 captain in 2006, and chief in 2012; he retired from the fire
19 department in 2015 and took on the position of village
20 treasurer; that same year, he was published in Fire
21 Engineering magazine; he also formerly taught fire science at
22 Lewis and Clark Community College in Godfrey; and

1 WHEREAS, Randy Nelson was an active member of the
2 community, receiving several recognitions and awards; his
3 community involvement included the East Alton Rotary, which
4 awarded him the Paul Harris Award for Service; he also served
5 as president and vice president of Local 2333 of the
6 International Association of Fire Fighters (IAFF); and

7 WHEREAS, Randy Nelson loved fast cars, motorcycles,
8 fishing, and playing darts; he was also an avid boater; and

9 WHEREAS, Randy Nelson will be remembered for his
10 commitment, dedication, passion, and love for his family, as
11 well as his service to the community; and

12 WHEREAS, Randy Nelson was preceded in death by his parents
13 and his sister-in-law, Donna Nelson; and

14 WHEREAS, Randy Nelson is survived by his wife; his
15 stepchildren, Julian Watt, Lydia Watt, Gabriel Watt, Brittany
16 (Dennis) Edney, and Katie (Austin) Sanders; five
17 step-grandchildren; his sisters, Ornetta (Fred) Gilliam, Roxie
18 (Mike Baker) Huck, and Karen (Terry) Good; his brothers,
19 Richard Nelson and Boyd (Staci) Nelson; his nieces and
20 nephews, Jeremy (Missy) Gilliam, Aaron (Kayla) Gilliam, Scott
21 (Tonya Kelly) Gilliam, Dean (Heather Ogden) Huck, Derrick
22 (Wendi) Good, Ryan (Tara) Good, Chris Nelson, Sarah (Lance

1 Harris) Nelson, and Dan (Keely) Nelson; several great-nieces
2 and great-nephews; his friends; and his pets, Momo, Leo,
3 Cheeto, Oliver, and Baby EJ; therefore, be it

4 RESOLVED, BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE
5 HUNDRED THIRD GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, that
6 we mourn the passing of Randy Nelson and extend our sincere
7 condolences to his family, friends, and all who knew and loved
8 him; and be it further

9 RESOLVED, That a suitable copy of this resolution be
10 presented to the family of Randy Nelson as an expression of our
11 deepest sympathy.