

House Resolution No. 4512

Whereas, the members of the Missouri House of Representatives recognize the significance of the institution of marriage as a vital foundation of American society and wholeheartedly believe that a successful union can be achieved only through a loving relationship of mutual honor, respect, and trust; and

Whereas, a period of five wondrous decades has passed since William David "Bill" Ragan lovingly took the hand of his beautiful bride, Joanne Mae Gutting, during a solemn ceremony officiated by the Reverend Richard Golden and witnessed by James S. Ragan and Carol Lou Paden on December 5, 1954, at the Kahoka Christian Church in Kahoka, Missouri; and

Whereas, in the years since that heavenly day, Bill and Joanne Ragan have had the pleasure of watching their family grow to include three children, Kim Ragan and his wife, Gina, of Fayetteville, Georgia, Shelly St. Clair of Holts Summit, and Kerry Cole of Canton; and eight grandchildren; and

Whereas, now retired, Bill Ragan has compiled an impressive record of achievement that includes being the co-owner and operator of Ragan Gas Company, a Korean War veteran of the United States Navy, and a member of the Shriners, the Masons, and the Order of the Eastern Star, where he serves as the Escort for the Grand Esther in the Grand Chapter of Missouri; and

Whereas, a devoted wife, loving mother, and exemplary homemaker, Joanne Gutting has further distinguished herself as the retired co-owner of Ragan Gas Company, as an active auctioneer, and as the Grand Esther in the Grand Chapter of Missouri Order of the Eastern Star; and

Whereas, during their fifty years together, Bill and Joanne Ragan have enjoyed many hobbies and pastimes, some of which include dancing, cheering for area basketball teams, reading, working outdoors, taking part in Relay for Life and Bloodmobile activities, and collecting hats and Clark County history; and

Whereas, Mr. and Mrs. Ragan, residents of Kahoka, will commemorate the resplendent occasion of their Golden Wedding Anniversary with a special celebration to be hosted by their loved ones on December 4, 2004, at the VFW in Hamilton, Illinois:

Now, therefore, be it resolved that we, the members of the Missouri House of Representatives, Ninety-second General Assembly, join unanimously in extending our most hearty congratulations to Bill and Joanne Ragan and in wishing them only the best as they continue their journey walking hand-in-hand along life's path; and

Be it further resolved that the Chief Clerk of the Missouri House of Representatives be instructed to prepare a properly inscribed copy of this resolution for Mr. and Mrs. William David Ragan.

Offered by _____
Representative Robert Hilgemann
District No. 64

I, Catherine L. Hanaway, Speaker of the House of Representatives, Ninety-second General Assembly, Second Regular Session, do certify that the above is a true and correct copy of House Resolution No. 4512, adopted November 22, 2004.

Catherine L. Hanaway, Speaker