



Introduced Version

**HOUSE
RESOLUTION No. _____**

Introduced by: Heine

1 A HOUSE RESOLUTION honoring the late Phil
2 Steigerwald.

3 *Whereas, Phil Steigerwald was born on October 21, 1927,*
4 *in Fort Wayne and passed away on January 15, 2004, at the*
5 *age of 76;*

6 *Whereas, He was the owner and broker of Fairfield Realtors,*
7 *Inc. for 40 years;*

8 *Whereas, He was heavily involved in his community as a*
9 *40-year member and soloist of the Plymouth Congregational*
10 *Church, a soloist at Congregation Achduth Vesholom for 25*
11 *years, City Councilman for the 5th District of Fort Wayne for*
12 *eight years, and treasurer of the Republican Party;*

13 *Whereas, Phil was most well-known as being the longtime*

20242241

HR 1515/DI 140

2024



1 *Santa Claus at the historic Wolf and Dessauer department store*
 2 *in downtown Fort Wayne for over 40 years;*

3 *Whereas, For decades, families in Fort Wayne and*
 4 *surrounding counties would make the yearly trek to the Wolf*
 5 *and Dessauer store to visit Santa Claus, and for many children,*
 6 *this was the one and only Santa;*

7 *Whereas, During Christmastime, Wolf and Dessauer was*
 8 *known for its wonderful window displays, which garnered*
 9 *national attention;*

10 *Whereas, Phil had his own local television show called*
 11 *"Santa in Wonderland" on WKJG-TV, and children all over the*
 12 *region would rush to their televisions to see what Santa and his*
 13 *favorite elf, Wee Willie Wand, were up to at that time of year;*

14 *Whereas, He was inducted into the International Santa Claus*
 15 *Hall of Fame Class of 2023, a project that celebrates, studies,*
 16 *and preserves the historical documentation of the many men*
 17 *and women who have greatly contributed to the legend of Santa*
 18 *Claus around the world;*

19 *Whereas, Nominations for the International Santa Claus*
 20 *Hall of Fame come from several sources including the*
 21 *communities in which the Santas served, and each candidate is*
 22 *selected by a panel of 15 people who review their career*
 23 *through a list of criteria such as length of service and service*
 24 *to their community; and*

25 *Whereas, Phil Steigerwald may be gone, but his passion for*
 26 *playing Santa for children all around Fort Wayne will remain*
 27 *forever: Therefore,*

28 *Be it resolved by the House of Representatives of the*
 29 *General Assembly of the State of Indiana:*

30 SECTION 1. That the Indiana House of Representatives
 31 honors the late Phil Steigerwald upon his induction into the
 32 International Santa Claus Hall of Fame Class of 2023.

33 SECTION 2. That the Principal Clerk of the House of
 34 Representatives transmit a copy of this resolution to State



1 Representative Dave Heine for distribution.

