

**SENATE CONCURRENT
RESOLUTION No. _____**

DIGEST OF INTRODUCED RESOLUTION

A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION memorializing Irv Cross.

**RANDOLPH LONNIE M,
TAYLOR G, MELTON, BREAUX**

_____, read first time and referred to Committee on



First Regular Session 122nd General Assembly (2021)

**SENATE CONCURRENT
RESOLUTION No. _____**

1 A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION memorializing Irv
2 Cross.

3 *Whereas, Irv Acie Cross passed away on February 28,*
4 *2021, in North Oaks, Minnesota;*

5 *Whereas, Irv was born on July 27, 1939, in Hammond,*
6 *Indiana, as the eighth of fifteen children of Ellee and Acie*
7 *Cross;*

8 *Whereas, Irv portrayed great potential from a young age,*
9 *attending Hammond High where he was a star athlete in*
10 *football, basketball, and track and field, winning the title of*
11 *Male Athlete of the Year in 1957 by The Times of Northwest*
12 *Indiana;*

13 *Whereas, Overcoming adversity and pursuing greatness*
14 *through his intelligence, determination, and athletic ability, Irv*
15 *went on to play football as part of Ara Parseghian's first*
16 *recruiting class at Northwestern on an athletic and academic*
17 *scholarship;*

18 *Whereas, Irv led a highly accomplished collegiate career,*
19 *as captain of the football team in 1960, an All-Big Ten*
20 *selection, a three-year letterman, competed in track, was named*
21 *Northwestern's male athlete of the year his senior year, and*
22 *graduated with a degree from the School of Education and*
23 *Social Policy;*



1 *Whereas, In 1961, Irv was drafted for the NFL in the*
2 *seventh round by the Philadelphia Eagles;*

3 *Whereas, Irv played professionally for the Eagles and*
4 *earned Pro Bowl honors in consecutive seasons before being*
5 *traded to the Los Angeles Rams in 1965;*

6 *Whereas, In 1969, Irv returned to the Eagles as a player*
7 *and defensive backs coach through the 1970 season;*

8 *Whereas, Irv's determination, grit, and intellect propelled*
9 *him throughout his career, as he started his broadcasting*
10 *career at WIBG while still professionally playing football;*

11 *Whereas, While at WIBG and still playing football, Irv*
12 *caught the attention of KYW-TV who offered Irv the sports*
13 *director role for both radio and television;*

14 *Whereas, Irv was an instant success, gaining exposure in*
15 *Philadelphia because his sportscast preceded Johnny Carson's*
16 *The Tonight Show, and in 1971 Irv was hired by CBS Sports as*
17 *a game analyst where he had a weekly show: The CBS Sports*
18 *Spectacular, expanding his coverage to include other sports*
19 *such as track and field and gymnastics;*

20 *Whereas, Irv made history, becoming the first African*
21 *American network sports show anchor on the first live*
22 *pre-game show on CBS, and Irv absolutely excelled, paving the*
23 *path forward for African American sports anchors;*

24 *Whereas, Irv was on the legendary team with Brent*
25 *Musburger, a famous sports analyst, Phyllis George, who was*
26 *Miss America in 1971, and Jimmy "The Greek" Synder, a Las*
27 *Vegas bookmaker, on the Emmy-winning pre-game show, "The*
28 *NFL Today" for fourteen out of his twenty-three years spent at*
29 *CBS Sports, and was recognized for his talent in 2009 after*
30 *being the first African American recipient of the Pro Football*
31 *Hall of Fame's Pete Rozelle Radio-Television Award;*

32 *Whereas, Irv's career extended beyond the football field*



1 *and broadcasting room, as he also was the Athletic Director at*
2 *Idaho State, the Athletic Director at Macalester College in*
3 *Minneapolis, the Executive Director of Big Brothers, Big*
4 *Sisters of Central Minnesota, and was the Executive Director*
5 *of Love Inc.; and*

6 *Whereas, Unwavering in his faith and dedication to his*
7 *family, Irv is survived by his wife, Liz, his four children Susan,*
8 *Lisa, Matthew, and Sarah, his grandson Aiden, his brothers*
9 *Raymond, Teal, and Sam, his sisters Joan, Jackie, Julia, Pat,*
10 *and Gwen, and his many nieces, nephews, cousins, and in-laws:*
11 *Therefore,*

12 *Be it resolved by the Senate of the General Assembly*
13 *of the State of Indiana, the House of Representatives*
14 *concurring:*

15 SECTION 1. That the Indiana General Assembly
16 memorializes Irv Cross.

17 SECTION 2. The Secretary of the Senate is hereby directed
18 to transmit copies of this Resolution to his wife, Liz, and his
19 four children Susan, Lisa, Matthew, and Sarah.

