



HR0585

LRB100 14123 ALS 28879 r

1

HOUSE RESOLUTION

2

WHEREAS, The State of Illinois suffered a great loss when
3 beloved son Richard "Dick" Locher passed away on August 6,
4 2017; and

5

WHEREAS, Dick Locher was born in Dubuque Iowa in 1929; with
6 an affinity for art, Locher earned a degree from the Chicago
7 Academy of Fine Arts; and

8

WHEREAS, Dick Locher had a rich and diverse career, which
9 included serving as a test pilot for the U.S. Air Force for two
10 years, followed by another 18 years in the Air Force Reserves;
11 and

12

WHEREAS, Dick Locher worked as an assistant to Rick Yager,
13 who, at the time, was drawing the comic Buck Rogers of the 25th
14 Century; he then went on to work as Gilbert "Chester" Gould's
15 assistant, and was introduced to the comic strip detective Dick
16 Tracy, a character with which Locher would become synonymous
17 later in life; and

18

WHEREAS, Dick Locher began working as an editorial
19 cartoonist for the Chicago Tribune in 1973; he remained on the
20 Tribune's staff until 2013 and created more than 10,000
21 cartoons; and

1 WHEREAS, Dick Locher won the Pulitzer Prize for Editorial
2 Cartooning in 1983, primarily for a Tribune cartoon featuring
3 President Ronald Reagan; and

4 WHEREAS, Dick Locher, along with his son John, resumed
5 regular drawing of the Dick Tracy comic strip in 1983; he
6 continued to draw the Dick Tracy comic strip until 2009 and
7 wrote the storyline until 2011; and

8 WHEREAS, Dick Locher called Naperville home since 1969, and
9 he was a beloved member of the community; he left a lasting
10 legacy, including designing the nine-foot-tall statue of Dick
11 Tracy, which is located on the Naperville Riverwalk, and the
12 bronze statue of Naperville's founder, Joe Naper, which stands
13 at the site of Naper's homestead; and

14 WHEREAS, Dick Locher also worked with former Naperville
15 Mayor George Pradel to incorporate the Dick Tracy character
16 into Naperville Police Department campaigns; Locher was also
17 actively involved in Naperville Community Radio Watch and Crime
18 Stoppers. In 1984, the FBI National Academy Associates of
19 Illinois named Locher an "Outstanding Citizen of the Year" for
20 his crime-fighting efforts; and

21 WHEREAS, Dick Locher also designed the Land of Lincoln

1 Trophy, modeled after Lincoln's famous stovepipe hat, which is
2 awarded annually to the winner of the Northwestern University
3 versus University of Illinois football game; and

4 WHEREAS, Dick Locher also made giving back to his community
5 a priority; he donated start-up funds for the John Locher Art
6 Gallery at Naperville North High School, in memory of his son,
7 John, who passed in 1986; he also volunteered with art students
8 at the College of DuPage; and

9 WHEREAS, Dick Locher, a talented artist in many mediums,
10 donated much of his art to local charities and gave generously
11 of his time to fans, especially children with an interest in
12 art or comics; and

13 WHEREAS, Dick Locher passed at the age of 88; he is
14 survived by his wife of 60 years, Mary; his son Steve; his
15 daughter Jana Evans; five grandchildren; and one
16 great-grandchild; and

17 WHEREAS, Dick Locher's friend, current Chicago Tribune
18 editorial cartoonist Scott Stanis, said, "Now we live in a
19 world without Dick Locher in it, and it's a darker place
20 without this bright light"; therefore, be it

21 RESOLVED, BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE

1 HUNDREDTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, that
2 members of the House wish to express our deepest condolences to
3 Dick Locher's family, and we wish to celebrate the life and
4 contributions of this true Illinois icon; and be it further

5 RESOLVED, That a suitable copy of this resolution be
6 presented to the Locher family as an expression of our esteem
7 and respect.