



SR1093

LRB100 15635 MST 30730 r

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SENATE RESOLUTION

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WHEREAS, The members of the Illinois Senate are saddened to learn of the death of Dr. Walter L. "Chick" Bishop of Litchfield, who passed away on November 7, 2017; and

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WHEREAS, Dr. Bishop was born in Litchfield to Walter Lawrence and Mary Francis (Burke) Bishop on October 7, 1935; he graduated from Litchfield Community High School in 1953; he received his bachelor's degree in education from Southern Illinois University Carbondale (SIU) in 1958, a master's degree from Southern Illinois University Edwardsville in 1963, and a Doctorate of Education from Illinois State University in 1975; he excelled in many sports in both high school and college and lettered in football, wrestling, and track at SIU Carbondale; in the late 1950s to the early 1960s, he served in the United States Army and the Illinois National Guard; he married his high school sweetheart Hester Williams; and

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WHEREAS, Dr. Bishop's career in education began in 1958 as an elementary teacher at Raymond Grade School; he was the principal and sixth grade teacher at Ida J. Russell School in Litchfield from 1959 to 1967; from 1967 to 1977 he served as the Montgomery County Superintendent of Schools; he later served as Superintendent of the Livingston School District; he was an associate professor at Northern Illinois University, a

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1 professor and department head at the University of Northern  
2 Iowa, the Director of the Springfield Education Consortium at  
3 Sangamon State University, and served as a consultant for the  
4 Illinois State Board of Education; and

5 WHEREAS, Dr. Bishop was awarded the American Educators  
6 Medal in 1973 from the Freedoms Foundation at Valley Forge; he  
7 penned the statement, "Education is the Eternal Flame of  
8 Freedom."; and

9 WHEREAS, Dr. Bishop was an avid supporter of his local  
10 community, served on many committees, and was sought as a  
11 key-note speaker throughout the years; he served as the  
12 key-note speaker for 36 years for the local chapter of The  
13 Voice of Democracy, an annual nation-wide scholarship program  
14 sponsored by the Veterans of Foreign Wars; and

15 WHEREAS, Dr. Bishop wrote the agriculture section for the  
16 Litchfield Sesquicentennial Book; he was well-known for his  
17 knowledge of farming, antique farm equipment, and the history  
18 of the Old West; he was instrumental in organizing numerous  
19 trail rides and was called upon to judge many horse and antique  
20 farm equipment shows throughout central Illinois; he was a  
21 member of the Christian Church of Litchfield; and

22 WHEREAS, Dr. Bishop was preceded in death by his parents;

1 his brother, Colonel Thomas Bishop; and his sisters, Mary Lou  
2 Pitman and Elizabeth "Betty" Robey; and

3 WHEREAS, Dr. Bishop is survived by his wife, Hester; his  
4 sister, Judith (Dr. Eric) Strohmeier; his children, Jane  
5 Bishop, Charles (Tammy) Bishop, Dale (Becky) Bishop, Don (Lisa)  
6 Bishop, Glenn (Kim) Bishop, and Ben (Cheryl) Bishop; and many  
7 grandchildren, great-grandchildren, nieces, nephews,  
8 great-nieces, and nephews; therefore, be it

9 RESOLVED, BY THE SENATE OF THE ONE HUNDREDTH GENERAL  
10 ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, that we mourn the passing of  
11 Dr. Walter L. "Chick" Bishop, and extend our sincere  
12 condolences to his family, friends, and all who knew and loved  
13 him; and be it further

14 RESOLVED, That a suitable copy of this resolution be  
15 presented to the family of Dr. Bishop as an expression of our  
16 deepest sympathy.