



SR1583

LRB100 21463 MST 38171 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 Joseph A. "Joe" Morrissey, who passed away on April 2, 2018; and

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WHEREAS, Joe Morrissey was born on the family farm near Amboy to William R. and Aileen (Brady) Morrissey on August 16, 1929; early on, he learned discipline by milking cows at 5 a.m. every day, bailing hay, and feeding pigs and chickens; he scrapped metal and sold eggs to make side money during World War II; he attended St. Anne Elementary School and graduated from Amboy High School in 1947 and St. Ambrose University in 1951; he served in the U.S. Air Force during the Korean War and earned his Juris Doctorate from the University of Illinois School of Law in 1958; and

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WHEREAS, Joe Morrissey worked in the State Farm Claims Department until 1964 when he began a private law practice in Rockford, concentrating in personal injury claims for over 50 years; and

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WHEREAS, On December 13, 1978, Joe Morrissey took his last drink of alcohol and his first step into Alcoholics Anonymous, where he not only received the help he needed, but gave back by helping numerous others; and

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1           WHEREAS, Joe Morrissey loved the community of Rockford and  
2 spent countless hours and nearly all of his life savings to  
3 help redevelop downtown Rockford and other impoverished parts  
4 of the city; and

5           WHEREAS, Joe Morrissey enjoyed practicing his Catholic  
6 faith, gardening, morning coffee with his buddies, and  
7 campaigning for his son, former Rockford Mayor Larry Morrissey;  
8 and

9           WHEREAS, Joe Morrissey was preceded in death by his  
10 parents; his grandson, Michael Joseph Morrissey; his brothers,  
11 Robert, John "Tiny", and Reverend William Morrissey; his  
12 sisters, Rosie and Bette; his brothers-in-law, Leroy Goy, Doug  
13 Koch, George Hawks, Louis Wilhelm, Alvin Glenn, Gene Carroll,  
14 Lloyd Considine, Jack Scorby, and Joe (Marge) Matranga; his  
15 brother and sister-in-law, Cosmo and Antonette Matranga; three  
16 infant Matranga brothers-in-law; his nephew and godson, Tim  
17 Considine; and his nephews, Jay Hawks and Brian Goy; and

18           WHEREAS, Joe Morrissey is survived by his wife, Josephine;  
19 his kids, Bill (Melissa), Eileen (Joe), and Larry (Stacy); his  
20 grandchildren, Larissa, Joseph, Josh, Matt, Andrew, Grace,  
21 Seanna, Sophia, Dillon, and AJ; his sisters, Rita, Lois,  
22 Frances, Monica, Barb, and Colleen; his sisters-in-law,

1 Corrine and Linda; and his brother, Larry; therefore, be it

2       RESOLVED, BY THE SENATE OF THE ONE HUNDREDTH GENERAL  
3 ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, that we mourn the passing of  
4 Joseph A. "Joe" Morrissey, and extend our sincere condolences  
5 to his family, friends, and all who knew and loved him; and be  
6 it further

7       RESOLVED, That a suitable copy of this resolution be  
8 presented to the family of Joe Morrissey as an expression of  
9 our deepest sympathy.