



HR0924

LRB101 22404 ECR 73471 r

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HOUSE RESOLUTION

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WHEREAS, The members of the Illinois House of Representatives are saddened to learn of the death of former Mayor John F. McNamara of Rockford, who passed away on September 30, 2020; and

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WHEREAS, John McNamara was born to John I. and Marian McNamara on August 27, 1939; he graduated from Notre Dame in 1961 and received his law degree from the University of Michigan in 1964; he served in the U.S. Army from 1964 until 1966 during which he did a tour in Saigon as a captain in Army intelligence and earned a Bronze Star; he married his wife Barbara in 1965; and

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WHEREAS, After his service, John McNamara and his wife moved to Rockford; there, he worked as a public defender before going into private practice, first as a partner in the firm of King & McNamara and later with O'Brien, Healy, Wade, Abate, McNamara, & Gorman; later in life, he worked at William Charles Investments and then served as the Vice President for Institutional Advancement at Rockford University, helping the institution through its own challenging financial times until retiring in 2016; and

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WHEREAS, In 1974, John McNamara was appointed to fill the

1 vacant 3rd Ward alderman seat by then Rockford Mayor Robert  
2 McGaw; he was then elected to the position in 1975 and served  
3 until 1979; he then served two terms as Mayor of Rockford from  
4 1981 until 1989, leading the city past a severe depression with  
5 relentless optimism and aggressive leadership; and

6 WHEREAS, John McNamara supported his son Tom as he sought  
7 elected office, first as he won election to the seat of 3rd  
8 Ward alderman and in his position as the current mayor of  
9 Rockford; and

10 WHEREAS, John McNamara was preceded in death by his loving  
11 parents; his sisters, Maureen Faulkner and Tess Syron; and his  
12 parents-in-law, Verl and Katherine Runkle; and

13 WHEREAS, John McNamara is survived by his beloved wife,  
14 Barbara; his children, John (Mary Maguire) McNamara, Kate  
15 (Terry) Bourbeau, Dan (Sarah Bursley) McNamara, Mary (Ben  
16 Bernsten) McNamara Bernsten, Nell (Cameron McLaughlin)  
17 McNamara, and Thomas (Sarah Reed) McNamara; and his 16  
18 grandchildren; therefore, be it

19 RESOLVED, BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE  
20 HUNDRED FIRST GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, that  
21 we mourn the passing of former Mayor John F. McNamara and  
22 extend our sincerest condolences to his family, friends, and

1 all who knew and loved him; and be it further

2       RESOLVED, That a suitable copy of this resolution be  
3 presented to the family of John McNamara as an expression of  
4 our deepest sympathies.