



SR1136

LRB101 21358 LAW 71979 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 Steven L. "Steve" Adams of Bloomington, who passed away on May 8, 2020; and

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WHEREAS, Steve Adams was born in Bloomington to Kenneth and Freda Pomrenke Adams on October 9, 1946; he earned his Bachelor of Science in Business Administration from Illinois Wesleyan University in 1968; he served in the U.S. Army as a Specialist 5th Class with the United Nations Command in Seoul, South Korea from 1968 to 1970; he was awarded the Joint Services Commendation Medal for Meritorious Service; he completed graduate coursework in counseling at Illinois State University; he married Sandra "Sandi" Platta on June 3, 1977; and

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WHEREAS, Steve Adams began announcing Municipal League baseball games at McCormick Field as a teenager; his association with the local sports scene led to a 10-year career as a sports writer and an assistant sports editor for The Daily Pantagraph; and

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WHEREAS, Steve Adams maintained a professional career at Illinois State University that spanned 37 years; he joined the Office of Admissions as an assistant to the director in 1976;

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1 four years later, he was named associate director of  
2 Admissions; he oversaw a departmental transition to Enrollment  
3 Management, where he became director; he also served as acting  
4 director of Financial Aid and was an assistant to the provost;  
5 he was appointed vice president of Student Affairs in 2006;  
6 following his retirement in 2011, he continued to serve out of  
7 the president's office for two more years; and

8 WHEREAS, Steve Adams was well known as the Voice of the  
9 Redbirds for over 40 years, using his familiar, rich voice to  
10 enhance the fan experience in the Redbird Arena for Illinois  
11 State University men's basketball games and at Hancock Stadium  
12 for football as the public address announcer; he also announced  
13 the Illinois High School Association's state championships in  
14 football for over 20 years and both the boys and girls  
15 basketball state finals for over 10 years; and

16 WHEREAS, Steve Adams received a number of awards during his  
17 career, including the Neal R. Gamsky Quality of Student Life  
18 Award from ISU Student Affairs, the Stretch Miller Award for  
19 service to ISU Athletics, the Joseph F. Warner Golden Redbird  
20 Award, and the Missouri Valley Conference Most Courageous  
21 Award; he was recognized by the Illinois Basketball Coaches  
22 Association Hall of Fame and the University High School Alumni  
23 Association Pioneer Hall of Fame; the Illinois State Alumni  
24 Association named him an honorary member; and

1           WHEREAS, Steve Adams was known for his commitment and  
2 dedication to excellence; he was beloved as a boss and admired  
3 by his colleagues; his caring and nurturing nature contributed  
4 to his ability to excel during his tenure in Student Affairs at  
5 Illinois State University; and

6           WHEREAS, Steve Adams was preceded in death by his parents;  
7 his sister, Nancy Adams Tjaden; and his brother-in-law, Donald  
8 Tjaden; and

9           WHEREAS, Steve Adams is survived by his wife, Sandi; his  
10 daughters, Katie (Ben) Hart and SuzAnne Smithson; his  
11 grandchildren, Lauren Hart, Alex Hart, Riley Smithson, and  
12 Cooper Smithson; his niece, Linda (Bob) St. John; and his  
13 nephew, Scott Tjaden; therefore, be it

14           RESOLVED, BY THE SENATE OF THE ONE HUNDRED FIRST GENERAL  
15 ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, that we mourn the passing of  
16 Steven L. "Steve" Adams and extend our sincere condolences to  
17 his family, friends, and all who knew and loved him; and be it  
18 further

19           RESOLVED, That a suitable copy of this resolution be  
20 presented to the family of Steve Adams as an expression of our  
21 deepest sympathy.