



SR0387

LRB103 33208 LAW 63015 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 Larry A. Werries, who passed away on July 7, 2023; and

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WHEREAS, Larry Werries was born to Leland and Virginia Rice Werries of Chapin on March 26, 1940; he attended Chapin Grade School; he was confirmed at St. Paul's Lutheran Church in Chapin in 1954; he graduated from Chapin High School in 1958; he earned a degree in agriculture business from the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign in 1962, where he pledged Sigma Chi Fraternity and was named All-IM in intramural basketball; he served in the U.S. Army Reserves beginning in 1962, receiving Basic Training and Advanced Infantry Training at Ft. Polk, Louisiana, followed by five and a half years in the Active Reserves; and

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WHEREAS, Larry Werries farmed with his father and brother, John, in Chapin and Concord for nearly 20 years; during his time as a farmer, the Werries farm operation grew exponentially, adding purchased and rented land and increasing confinement reared swine until reaching a number of 6,000 per year; his family farm was among the pioneers in Morgan County for confinement production of swine; and

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1 WHEREAS, Larry Werries was appointed as director of the
2 Illinois Department of Agriculture by Governor James R.
3 Thompson in March 1981; during his tenure, which lasted nearly
4 nine years, he was elected to the position of chairman of the
5 Midwest Directors before serving two terms as president of the
6 National Association of State Departments of Agriculture;
7 while director, the T by 2000 Program was initiated, which
8 resulted in several millions of dollars appropriated to Soil
9 and Water Conservation Districts for cost share practices to
10 implement conservation structures; he also led a number of
11 trade promotion exchanges to China, Europe, Canada, and
12 Mexico; for his service, the Illinois Department of
13 Agriculture was presented the Presidential "E" Award for
14 Excellence in Promoting Exports by President Ronald Reagan in
15 October 1982; and

16 WHEREAS, Beginning in October 1, 1989, Larry Werries
17 served as director of Intergovernmental Affairs for the U.S.
18 Department of Agriculture (USDA) in Washington, D.C. for a
19 brief term during the first Bush administration, acting as a
20 liaison between the USDA and units of state and local
21 government; and

22 WHEREAS, Larry Werries then moved to the Chicago area and
23 served as alderman for the Village of Oakbrook Terrace; he was
24 a member of Chicago Farmers and served on an advisory

1 committee for the Chicago School of Agricultural Sciences; he
2 was also a team member of a consulting group, which submitted a
3 privatization plan for agricultural enterprises in Poland
4 after the fall of Communism in that country, and the results of
5 the study were presented to the World Bank after an extended
6 visit to Warsaw and farms in the Baltic area; and

7 WHEREAS, Larry Werries eventually returned to the
8 Jacksonville area, where he joined the REMAX Agency as a
9 realtor specializing in farm and commercial transactions; upon
10 retirement from real estate sales, he served as a consultant
11 to the American Farmland Trust in Washington, D.C., where he
12 was appointed as project coordinator for the Lake Mauvaise
13 Terre Project and was in charge of allocating U.S.
14 Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) funds to farmers in the
15 watershed for cost sharing of conservation practices; and

16 WHEREAS, Larry Werries remained active in alumni affairs
17 at the University of Illinois (U of I), becoming a life member
18 of the U of I Alumni Association and serving as president of
19 the Ag Alumni Association; for his service and dedication, he
20 received the Loyalty Award, The Round Barn Society Award, the
21 Board of Directors Appreciation Award, and the prestigious
22 Award of Merit for distinguished ag alums; he was also a member
23 of the President's Council and the U of I Foundation; he and
24 his wife were longtime donors to the Jonathan Baldwin Turner

1 academic scholarship for students pursuing agricultural
2 degrees at the U of I; and

3 WHEREAS, Larry Werries belonged to several organizations,
4 including Sigma Chi Fraternity as a life member, Elks Lodge
5 682, The American Legion, and the Morgan County Farm Bureau;
6 he was the former president of the Morgan County Pork
7 Producers and the Triopia Athletic Boosters; he was a past
8 member of the Passavant Hospital Board of Trustees; he was a
9 lifelong member of St. Paul's Lutheran Church in rural Chapin,
10 serving as head usher, elder, congregational chairman, high
11 school Bible class teacher, and youth group sponsor; he was
12 awarded the Jacksonville Area Chamber's Agricultural Hall of
13 Fame Award in 2000; he and Becky supported a number of
14 non-profits in the Jacksonville area; and

15 WHEREAS, Larry Werries enjoyed golfing at Northridge Hills
16 and Jacksonville Country Club, where he was a longtime member
17 and served a term on the board of directors; he was an avid St.
18 Louis Cardinals fan and a baseball fan in general; he and Becky
19 followed the athletic activities of the U of I, Michigan State
20 University, Jacksonville High School, and Triopia; he and
21 Becky spent winters at The Villages in Florida or Palm Desert
22 in Southern California for several years after marrying in
23 2011; and

1 WHEREAS, Larry Werries was preceded in death by his
2 parents; and

3 WHEREAS, Larry Werries is survived by his wife, Becky; his
4 son, Neil (Gabriela) Werries, and their son, Henry, and
5 grandson, Drew Ater; his daughter, Kristen (Paul) Werries
6 Collier, and their sons, Tate, Holden, and Vaughn; Becky's
7 daughter, Elizabeth (Doug) Matthews Stull; his brothers,
8 Martin (Beverly) Werries and John (Ruth) Werries; his sister,
9 Ruth (Greg) Geiger; his former wife, Donna Savage; and several
10 nieces, nephews, and cousins; therefore, be it

11 RESOLVED, BY THE SENATE OF THE ONE HUNDRED THIRD GENERAL
12 ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, that we mourn the passing of
13 Larry A. Werries and extend our sincere condolences to his
14 family, friends, and all who knew and loved him; and be it
15 further

16 RESOLVED, That a suitable copy of this resolution be
17 presented to the family of Larry Werries as an expression of
18 our deepest sympathy.