



1 SENATE RESOLUTION

2 WHEREAS, The members of the Senate of the State of Illinois  
3 learned with regret of the death of John Chonko of Downers  
4 Grove on Friday, May 6, 2005; and

5 WHEREAS, Born in Stockbridge, Wisconsin, to parents who  
6 emigrated from the Ukraine, Mr. Chonko moved to Downers Grove  
7 when he was young and graduated from Downers Grove Community  
8 High School in 1943; and

9 WHEREAS, Mr. Chonko valiantly served his country during  
10 World War II as a member of the U.S. Army Air Forces; and

11 WHEREAS, He attended North Central College in Naperville,  
12 graduating in 1948 with a bachelor's degree in business  
13 administration; he first worked in the insurance business, but  
14 in 1951, he was hired as the first manager of a fledging credit  
15 union, which had been run by volunteers at Argonne, near  
16 Lemont; and

17 WHEREAS, Two years after he started at the Argonne National  
18 Laboratory Credit Union in 1951, Mr. Chonko became president;  
19 for the next 39 years, he helped the institution grow from  
20 initial assets of \$6,700 and 226 members to resources that  
21 exceeded \$80 million and 10,000 members; during his tenure, the  
22 credit union expanded to include a branch at Fermi National  
23 Accelerator Laboratory, near Batavia, and at a laboratory run  
24 by the University of Chicago for the Department of Energy in  
25 Idaho; and

26 WHEREAS, The passing of John Chonko has been deeply felt by  
27 many, especially his wife, Carolyn, whom he married in 1948;  
28 his daughter, Cheri; his sons, Curtis and Glen; and his two  
29 grandchildren; therefore, be it

1           RESOLVED, BY THE SENATE OF THE NINETY-FOURTH GENERAL  
2 ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, that we mourn the passing of  
3 John Chonko, a man who enjoyed helping people and never shirked  
4 his responsibilities; and be it further

5           RESOLVED, That a suitable copy of this resolution be  
6 presented to his family as an expression of our sincerest  
7 condolences.