



HR1528

LRB096 24482 GRL 44263 r

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HOUSE RESOLUTION

2 WHEREAS, The members of the Illinois House of
3 Representatives are saddened to learn of the death of Ivan D.
4 Thunder of Grayslake, who passed away on October 29, 2010; and

5 WHEREAS, Ivan Thunder was born in Oakland, California on
6 September 28, 1913; his parents were the late James and
7 Gertrude Thunder; he attended Loyola Academy, graduating in
8 1932, and was the only one of his siblings to attend college;
9 during the Great Depression, he worked his way for 5 years
10 through the 4-year program at Armour Tech (now the Illinois
11 Institute of Technology), graduating in 1937; he subsequently
12 became a civil engineer; and

13 WHEREAS, Ivan Thunder served his country with pride and
14 distinction; when the United States entered World War II, Mr.
15 Thunder was working at the Panama Canal; he later joined the
16 United States Navy and was a lieutenant junior grade with the
17 133rd Naval Construction Battalion (SeaBees) of the 4th Marine
18 Division; he landed on Iwo Jima on D-Day + 1; during World War
19 II, Mr. Thunder was the commander of the first ship to make a
20 successful landing at Iwo Jima and risked his life to extricate
21 the ship from a chain that fouled the boat; and

22 WHEREAS, Ivan Thunder was a member of the American Society

1 of Engineers; as a structural engineer, he helped to build
2 America, constructing roads, bridges, dams, power plants, and
3 steel-making plants; later in life, he began communicating in
4 detail about his war experience; he spoke to students at every
5 level, including Navy ROTC students at Notre Dame in April of
6 2007; he wrote a book about his life up to the day he landed at
7 Iwo Jima ("Her Last Letter" under the pseudonym Michael Dalton)
8 and wrote a second book about Iwo Jima and the Pacific War; and

9 WHEREAS, Ivan Thunder was a member of St. Gilbert Catholic
10 Church in Grayslake and Mary, Seat of Wisdom Parish in Park
11 Ridge; and

12 WHEREAS, Ivan Thunder was preceded in death by his
13 cherished wife of 61 years, Rosemary; and

14 WHEREAS, Ivan Thunder was the loving father of Rosemary
15 (James) Schwoebel, Maureen (Dennis) Brebner, James (Ann Gerby)
16 Thunder, Tom (Linda Craig) Thunder, Anita (Richard)
17 Rotchstein, Diane (John) Schlosser, and Sheila (Gerard)
18 Zygmunt; the proud grandfather of 26; and the great-grandfather
19 of 15; therefore, be it

20 RESOLVED, BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE
21 NINETY-SIXTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, that we
22 mourn, along with his family and friends, the passing of Ivan

1 D. Thunder; and be it further

2 RESOLVED, That a suitable copy of this resolution be
3 presented to the family of Ivan Thunder as an expression of our
4 sympathy.