



SR0232

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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 Donald Adkins of Batavia, who passed away on April 7, 2009; and

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WHEREAS, He was born on August 6, 1923, in Elgin, the only child of Ruth Hollingsworth and Donald Adkins; he was raised by his lovely and loving grandmother, Tena Hollingsworth; and

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WHEREAS, During World War II, he served as a meteorologist and studied at the University of Iowa, Vanderbilt University, and the University of Chicago; wherever he was stationed, he was called upon each week to play his saxophone and clarinet, wherever music was needed, as he had done up and down the Fox Valley during his high school years; when he was discharged after the war, he attended Illinois State (Normal) University, where he continued with his music as a member of the Blackfriars; he graduated from Illinois State University in June 1948 with a bachelor's degree in mathematics and did graduate work at the University of Chicago and Northern Illinois University, where he earned advanced degrees in administration and in guidance; he also served in several leadership roles in the Phi Delta Kappa educational fraternity; and

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1           WHEREAS, He spent his career in education at Mooseheart,  
2 starting as a fifth grade teacher in 1951 and retiring as the  
3 director of education in 1991; he was respected and loved by  
4 his colleagues and students; he was a counselor, mentor and  
5 friend; and

6           WHEREAS, He is remembered for his humor, his smile, and  
7 that he loved to be around people; he enjoyed conversation, and  
8 made others happy with his humor, laughter, and quick wit; and

9           WHEREAS, Donald Adkins was preceded in death by his  
10 parents; his grandmother; his son, Gerard Joseph; and his  
11 stepmother, Loretta Adkins; and

12           WHEREAS, Donald Adkins is survived by his wife of 58 years,  
13 Barbara; his children, Catherine (Rear Admiral Rick) Ruehe,  
14 Charles Donald (Marianne Linn), and William Francis (Mary  
15 Ellen); and his grandchildren, Emily (Andrew) Ruehe Puckett and  
16 Eric Ruehe; therefore, be it

17           RESOLVED, BY THE SENATE OF THE NINETY-SIXTH GENERAL  
18 ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, that we mourn, along with  
19 his family and friends, the passing of Donald Adkins; and be it  
20 further

21           RESOLVED, That a suitable copy of this resolution be

1 presented to the family of Donald Adkins as a symbol of our  
2 sincere sympathy.