



HR1099

LRB097 21709 GRL 70123 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 Eugene
4 Polley; and

5 WHEREAS, Eugene Polley is best-known for his innovation in
6 the creation of the first wireless television remote; the
7 device began as a luxury, but with the introduction of hundreds
8 of channels and viewing technologies, it has become a universal
9 necessity; and

10 WHEREAS, Eugene Polley was born November 29, 2015, in
11 Chicago; he was a longtime resident of Lombard and had lived
12 most recently in Glen Ellyn, before his passing at the age of
13 96 on May 20, 2012; and

14 WHEREAS, At the age of 20, Eugene Polley joined the Zenith
15 Radio Company as a stock boy earning 40 cents an hour; he
16 studied at the City Colleges of Chicago and the Armour
17 Institute of Technology, but lacked the money to complete a
18 degree; still, he excelled mechanically and worked his way into
19 the engineering department at Zenith; in 1955, he invented the
20 Flash-Matic, which used visible light to remotely control a
21 television; the device could turn the set on and off and change
22 the channel; and

1 WHEREAS, During Eugene Polley's 47-year career as an
2 engineer, he not only forever altered the way consumers view
3 television, but also worked for the United States military and
4 the Department of War during World War II to develop bomb fuses
5 and ship-detecting radar; and

6 WHEREAS, Eugene Polley and Robert Adler shared the
7 1996-1997 Technology and Engineering Emmy Award for
8 "Pioneering Development of Wireless Remote Control for
9 Consumer Television"; in 2009, Mr. Polley earned the IEEE
10 Consumer Electronics Award "for contributions to the
11 technology of the wireless remote control for television and
12 other consumer electronic products"; and

13 WHEREAS, Eugene Polley is survived by his son, Eugene Jr.,
14 and his grandson; he was preceded in death by his wife, the
15 former Blanche Wiley, and his daughter, Joan Polley; therefore,
16 be it

17 RESOLVED, BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE
18 NINETY-SEVENTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, that
19 we mourn the passing of Eugene Polley and recognize his
20 extensive technological contributions; and be it further

21 RESOLVED, That a suitable copy of this resolution be

1 presented to the family of Eugene Polley as a symbol of our
2 esteem and respect for this great man.