



HR1358

LRB097 23780 GRL 72938 r

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HOUSE RESOLUTION

2           WHEREAS, The members of the Illinois House of  
3 Representatives were saddened to learn of the death of former  
4 State Representative Harold A. Katz, who passed away on  
5 December 6, 2012; and

6           WHEREAS, Mr. Katz was born on November 2, 1921, in  
7 Shelbyville, Tennessee; his parents were Maurice W. and  
8 Gertrude Evelyn Cohen Katz; and

9           WHEREAS, Mr. Katz attended Vanderbilt University, where he  
10 wrote for the school newspaper, was an early supporter of  
11 integration and civil rights, was a collegiate chess champion,  
12 and earned his bachelor of arts degree in economics in 1943;  
13 during World War II, he worked for the War Labor Board and the  
14 National Labor Relations Board; he subsequently attended the  
15 University of Chicago, where he received his juris doctor in  
16 1948 and his master of arts degree in labor economics in 1958;  
17 and

18           WHEREAS, As a renowned labor attorney, Mr. Katz fought for  
19 and represented the rights of working men and women for more  
20 than 50 years; along with Irving Friedman, whom Harold met when  
21 they were on opposing sides of a labor relations case, he  
22 founded the law firm of Katz and Friedman in the 1950s; the

1 firm has grown over the years, representing labor unions, their  
2 members, and the injured, and is now known as Katz, Friedman,  
3 Eagle, Eisenstein, Johnson, and Bareck; and

4 WHEREAS, Mr. Katz filled his career with many honors and  
5 achievements, including authoring 2 major law books and a  
6 number of articles published in professional journals; he  
7 served in all 3 branches of government, as a member of the  
8 Illinois House of Representatives, as a legal counsel on  
9 legislation to Governor Otto Kerner, and as master-in-chancery  
10 at the trial court level in Cook County; he received the  
11 Laureate Award from the Illinois State Bar Association in 2001;  
12 and

13 WHEREAS, Mr. Katz served for 18 years in the Illinois House  
14 of Representatives, beginning as an at-large member during the  
15 74th General Assembly in 1965; he later represented Chicago's  
16 northern suburbs in the 1st District from 1967 until his  
17 retirement from the House in 1983; during his tenure as a  
18 legislator, he was known for his hard work, independence, and  
19 integrity, and he fought to pass budget reforms and new laws  
20 requiring accessibility for disabled persons; as an active  
21 member of the Judiciary Committee, he was a leader in updating  
22 the State's criminal laws; he also helped to create and chair  
23 the Commission on the Organization of the General Assembly,  
24 which streamlined and modernized the legislature; and

1           WHEREAS, Mr. Katz was preceded in death by his loving wife  
2 of 65 years, Ethel Mae; he is survived by their children, Alan  
3 (Pauline Bassett), B.J. (Derek Nadeau), Julia, and Joel (Laura  
4 Thorp), and their grandchildren, Ethan, Elena (Wesley) Legg,  
5 Daniel, Julianna, and Jeremy; therefore, be it

6           RESOLVED, BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE  
7 NINETY-SEVENTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, that  
8 we mourn, along with his family and friends, the passing of  
9 Harold A. Katz; and be it further

10           RESOLVED, That a suitable copy of this resolution be  
11 presented to the family of Harold A. Katz as a symbol of our  
12 deepest sympathies and great esteem.