



HR0404

LRB098 12228 MST 46347 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 Calvin  
4 "Cal" R. Sutker of Skokie, who passed away on April 25, 2013;  
5 and

6           WHEREAS, Calvin Sutker was born in Forest Park and attended  
7 Proviso High School before his family moved to Chicago; he  
8 attended Austin High School, where he met his wife-to-be,  
9 Phyllis; he enlisted in the U.S. Army in 1942, serving in  
10 Germany, France, and Austria during World War II; he was a  
11 member of the battalion that first entered the Dachu  
12 concentration camp and liberated its prisoners on April 29,  
13 1945; he earned his undergraduate and law degree from the  
14 University of Chicago; and

15           WHEREAS, Upon receiving his law degree following World War  
16 II, Calvin Sutker moved his family to Skokie and began  
17 practicing law; in 1973, he left his practice to join the  
18 Illinois Secretary of State's office as chief hearing officer;  
19 in 1978, he became the chief attorney for the Cook County  
20 Forest Preserve District; and

21           WHEREAS, Calvin Sutker began his political career when he  
22 was elected to the Skokie Village Board from 1965-1969, where

1 he helped to pass one of the first fair housing ordinances in  
2 the State, known as the "Skokie Plan"; in 1973, he was elected  
3 Democratic Committeeman of Niles Township, a position he held  
4 for 33 years until 2006; from 1985 to 1991, he served 3 2-year  
5 terms in the Illinois House of Representatives and 8 years on  
6 the Cook County Board from 1994 to 2002; he also served as  
7 Illinois State Central Committeeman, chairman of the Illinois  
8 Democratic Party (1983-1986), and Democratic National  
9 Committeeman; and

10 WHEREAS, Calvin Sutker's contributions to politics and his  
11 community are everywhere to be found; he was a member of the  
12 Caucus Party that has held all of the Skokie government seats  
13 for decades; he was instrumental in the creation of the North  
14 Shore Sculpture Park at the east end of the village and the  
15 Illinois Holocaust Museum & Education Center; he was president  
16 of Old Orchard B'nai Brith, chairman of the Anti-Defamation  
17 League of Metropolitan Chicago, and chairman of the March of  
18 Dimes of Niles Township; he was invaluable in bringing the  
19 Skokie Northshore Sculpture Park and the 2nd District  
20 Courthouse to Skokie; and

21 WHEREAS, Calvin Sutker was active in Jewish charitable  
22 causes and a staunch supporter of NA'AMAT USA; and

23 WHEREAS, Calvin Sutker was known for accumulating a large

1 library of books and it was not unheard of for those who spent  
2 time with him to walk away with a book from his collection; and

3 WHEREAS, In 2006, the Cook County Board named a portion of  
4 the Cook County Forest Preserve near the Illinois Holocaust  
5 Museum for Calvin Sutker in recognition of his years of service  
6 to the people of the county; other awards and recognitions  
7 include the Ethel Parker Award from the Independent Voters of  
8 Illinois (IVI), the IVI's Best Legislator Award, the Sylvia  
9 Award from the Pro-Choice Alliance, the Legislative  
10 Humanitarian Award from the Coalition of Suburban Bar  
11 Associations, and the Shaare Zedek Medical Center of Jerusalem  
12 Award; and

13 WHEREAS, Calvin Sutker was the dearly beloved husband of  
14 the late Phyllis (nee Twery); devoted father of Sharon Sutker  
15 McGowan (Jim McGowan), Shelley Sutker-Dermer (Kenneth Dermer),  
16 Edie Sue Sutker (David Richmond), and Allen Sutker (Karen  
17 Sutker); the loving grandfather of Jennifer and Joshua McGowan,  
18 Elana and Jake Dermer, and Dani, Niki, Tommy, and Teddy Sutker;  
19 the dear brother of Irwin (the late Carla) Sutker and Ada  
20 (Beryl) Rabinowitz; the brother-in-law of Marsha Kline and the  
21 late David Kline; and he will be fondly remembered by many  
22 nieces, nephews, grandnieces, grandnephews, and friends;  
23 therefore, be it

1           RESOLVED, BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE  
2           NINETY-EIGHTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, that  
3           we mourn the passing of Calvin Sutker, and extend our sincere  
4           condolences to his family, friends, and all who knew and loved  
5           him; and be it further

6           RESOLVED, That a suitable copy of this resolution be  
7           presented to the family of Calvin Sutker as an expression of  
8           our deepest sympathy.