



SR0104

LRB098 10897 GRL 41424 r

1

SENATE RESOLUTION

2

WHEREAS, The members of the Illinois Senate are saddened to learn of the death of John N. Bellcoff, formerly of Madison, who passed away on February 17, 2013; and

3

4

5

WHEREAS, John Bellcoff was born on June 6, 1922, in Madison; his parents were Naum and Dana Bellcoff; he married Diana Nickoloff on September 20, 1959, in Madison; and

6

7

8

WHEREAS, John Bellcoff graduated from Madison High School in 1940; he subsequently attended Washington University in St. Louis, where he majored in political science while working with his father at Bellcoff and Son Grocery in Madison; and

9

10

11

12

WHEREAS, John Bellcoff was drafted and served his country as a member of the United States Army in World War II; he served in the European theater and attained the rank of staff sergeant; and

13

14

15

16

WHEREAS, John Bellcoff began his banking career at the First National Bank in Madison, where he retired as Vice President in 1993; he served as a fireman in Madison for 21 years and served as Assistant Fire Chief; he also worked at Sedlack Funeral Home in Madison and assisted other funeral homes in the community for many years; and

17

18

19

20

21

1 WHEREAS, John Bellcoff's political career began in 1951,
2 when he was first elected to the Madison School Board; he
3 served on the school board for 19 years and served as School
4 Board President for 15 of the 19 years; in 1967, he was elected
5 to the position of City Clerk of the City of Madison; he served
6 as City Clerk for 18 years until 1985, when he was elected to
7 serve as Mayor, where he remained until his retirement in 1997;
8 he also served as Madison County Democratic Chairman from 1990
9 to 1994; and

10 WHEREAS, John Bellcoff also served the citizens of Madison
11 County and the surrounding Metro East/Bi-State Area; he served
12 on the Madison County Board of Review from 1957 to 1961 and the
13 Tri-City Regional Port District from 1963 to 1997; he was a
14 charter member of the Southwestern Illinois Law Enforcement
15 Commission from 1968 to 2013; he was a past president of the
16 Southwestern Illinois Metropolitan Area Regional Planning
17 Commission and the Bi-State Development Agency; he was also an
18 executive board member of the East-West Gateway Coordinating
19 Council, the Boy Scouts of America, and the St. Elizabeth's
20 Medical Center Advisory Board; and

21 WHEREAS, John Bellcoff was a longtime member of numerous
22 organizations, including Madison Amvets, VFW, the American
23 Legion, Madison Lions Club, St. Mary's Men's Booster Club,

1 Croatian Fraternal Union Lodge 222, Masonic Lodge, DeMolay
2 Legion of Honor, and the Ainad Temple Shrine; in 2000, he was
3 bestowed the Shrine's Highest Honor of 33rd Degree; and

4 WHEREAS, John Bellcoff was a lifelong member of Holy
5 Trinity Bulgarian Eastern Orthodox Church in Madison and served
6 on the church's board for over 45 years; and

7 WHEREAS, John Bellcoff was preceded in death by his beloved
8 parents; his two sisters, Dina Blattner and Sylvia Reeves; his
9 in-laws, Elia and Yagna Nickoloff, his brothers-in-law, Nick E.
10 Nickoloff, Christ E. Nickoloff, John E. Nickoloff, Steve E.
11 Nickoloff, and Matthew Blattner; and his sister-in-law, Helen
12 Nickoloff; and

13 WHEREAS, John Bellcoff is survived by his beloved wife of
14 54 years, Diana; his daughters and son-in-law, Kathy and Tim
15 Childers and Norma L. Bellcoff; his grandson, John; his very
16 special dachshund, "Skeeter"; his brother-in-law, Robert Don
17 Reeves; his sisters-in-law, Mary Nickoloff, Elsie Nickoloff,
18 and Ellen Nickoloff; and his many nieces, nephews,
19 great-nieces, great-nephews, great-great nieces, great-great
20 nephews, and cousins; therefore, be it

21 RESOLVED, BY THE SENATE OF THE NINETY-EIGHTH GENERAL
22 ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, that we mourn, along with

1 his family and friends, the passing of John Bellcoff; and be it
2 further

3 RESOLVED, That a suitable copy of this resolution be
4 presented to the family of John Bellcoff as an expression of
5 our sympathy.