



SR0343

LRB098 12306 MST 46570 r

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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 William Joseph Durka, who passed away on May 12, 2013; and

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WHEREAS, William Durka was born in Kenosha, Wisconsin, to Anthony and Mary Durka; he was raised in Waukegan and attended Waukegan Township High School, graduating in 1939 as the valedictorian of his class; he went to the University of Chicago, earning his bachelors of arts in 1943 and his juris doctor in 1944; he was an honor scholar and student marshal at the University of Chicago, debate coach, editor of the law review, elected to the Order of the Coif, and first in his class; he served 2 years as research assistant to the university president Robert M. Hutchins; he joined the U.S. Navy to give talks in the Chicago area on how the home front could aid the war effort during World War II; he married Margaret Reichardt in 1950; she passed away in 1978 and he married Nancy Weaver in 1981; and

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WHEREAS, William Durka began his law career in 1944 with James Lawrence Fly, who had started a New York firm specializing in communications law; he became a full partner in 5 years; in 1956, he joined the General Electric Company, retiring as the manager of G.E.'s International Trade Policy

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1 Operation; and

2 WHEREAS, A highlight of William Durka's life was a 2-hour
3 meeting in June 1947 with Albert Einstein at his Princeton
4 home; and

5 WHEREAS, William Durka was an avid reader and enjoyed
6 books, libraries, and discussing theories and ideas with
7 others; and

8 WHEREAS, William Durka is survived by his wife, Nancy; his
9 daughter, Peggy; his stepdaughter, Phoebe Trachtenberg and her
10 husband, Gordon, and their 2 children, and many nieces and
11 nephews; therefore, be it

12 RESOLVED, BY THE SENATE OF THE NINETY-EIGHTH GENERAL
13 ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, that we mourn the passing of
14 William Durka, and extend our sincere condolences to his
15 family, friends, and all who knew and loved him; and be it
16 further

17 RESOLVED, That a suitable copy of this resolution be
18 presented to the family of William Durka as an expression of
19 our deepest sympathy.