



SR0307

LRB104 13551 ECR 26051 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 Henry Rakoff, Ph.D., who passed away on May 2, 2025; and

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WHEREAS, Henry Rakoff was born to Joseph and Anna in Brooklyn, New York in 1924; he attended schools in Brooklyn; he received a Bachelor of Science in Chemistry from the City College of New York in 1944; he served as an electronics technician in the U.S. Navy; he earned a Master of Science in Chemistry and a Ph.D. in Chemistry from Purdue University; he married Mary Miller, and they had three children, Alan, Steven, and Tracy; he later married Nancy Safford in 1983, and he welcomed two stepchildren, Michael and Lisa; and

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WHEREAS, Henry Rakoff worked as a chemistry professor at Texas A&M University and at Parsons College; after relocating to Peoria in the 1970s, he served as a research chemist at the U.S. Department of Agriculture lab, retiring in 1992; afterward, he continued teaching chemistry part-time at Bradley University; and

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WHEREAS, Henry Rakoff co-authored an organic chemistry textbook, and he wrote numerous publications on the synthesis of deuterated fatty acids for use in a study of the metabolism

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1 of fats in humans; and

2 WHEREAS, Henry Rakoff was a longtime member of the
3 Universalist Unitarian Church, and he was an active
4 participant at the Osher Lifelong Learning Institute at
5 Bradley University; and

6 WHEREAS, Henry Rakoff and his wife, Nancy, loved traveling
7 abroad and in the U.S., including hiking to the bottom of the
8 Grand Canyon seven times; and

9 WHEREAS, Henry Rakoff was the husband of Nancy; the father
10 of Alan (Maria) Rakoff, Steven Rakoff, and Tracy (Jim) Madril;
11 the stepfather of Michael (Jennifer) Safford and Lisa (Ross)
12 Waskin; the grandfather of 12; and the great-grandfather of
13 four; therefore, be it

14 RESOLVED, BY THE SENATE OF THE ONE HUNDRED FOURTH GENERAL
15 ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, that we mourn the passing of
16 Henry Rakoff, Ph.D. and extend our sincere condolences to his
17 family, friends, and all who knew and loved him; and be it
18 further

19 RESOLVED, That a suitable copy of this resolution be
20 presented to the family of Henry Rakoff as an expression of our
21 deepest sympathy.