



SR0481

LRB104 15843 ECR 29055 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 Michael "Shawn" Way, who passed away on October 3, 2025; and

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WHEREAS, Shawn Way, the son of Bud and Joyce Way, was born in Rockford on October 1, 1962; he graduated from Holy Family Catholic School and Boylan Catholic Central High School, where he served as a pitcher on the 1980 conference championship baseball team; he received a degree in marketing from Northern Illinois University; he married Kathy Darnell in 1987; and

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WHEREAS, Shawn Way worked at AMCORE Bank for 20 years before co-founding Rockford Bank & Trust with his longtime friend, Tom Budd; he later served as CEO of the nonprofit Milestone Inc., an organization serving individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities, for 13 years; and

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WHEREAS, Shawn Way was active in fundraising for Rock House Kids, Holy Family Catholic School, and Milestone Inc.; he served on the Holy Family Finance Committee and the Boylan High School Foundation; and

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WHEREAS, Shawn Way was an avid sports fan, supporting the Chicago Cubs, the Chicago Blackhawks, the Green Bay Packers,

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1 and the Milwaukee Bucks; he loved coaching baseball and
2 basketball; he also loved golfing with his friends and family,
3 especially at his favorite course, Whistling Straights on Lake
4 Michigan; and

5 WHEREAS, Shawn Way loved his family, friends, coworkers,
6 and the Rockford community; he will be remembered as a sincere
7 servant leader, a talented marketer, and a selfless community
8 advocate who displayed a sharp sense of humor and a genuine
9 ability to connect with and care for other people; and

10 WHEREAS, Shawn Way was the husband of Kathy for 38 years;
11 the father of Alex, Hannah (Johnny Mitchell), Emily, Sarah
12 (Danny Gorman), Kate (Justin Fell), and Michael; the
13 grandfather of two; and the brother of Dave (Rose), Brad
14 (Julie), and Kathy (Stan Kline); therefore, be it

15 RESOLVED, BY THE SENATE OF THE ONE HUNDRED FOURTH GENERAL
16 ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, that we mourn the passing of
17 Michael "Shawn" Way and extend our sincere condolences to his
18 family, friends, and all who knew and loved him; and be it
19 further

20 RESOLVED, That a suitable copy of this resolution be
21 presented to the family of Shawn Way as an expression of our
22 deepest sympathy.