



HR1292

LRB100 24131 MST 43370 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 Dr.
4 Bernard J. Brommel, professor emeritus and philanthropist of
5 Northeastern Illinois University, who passed away on September
6 22, 2018 at his home in Kalamazoo, Michigan at the age of 88;
7 and

8 WHEREAS, Dr. Brommel was born in St. Mary's, Iowa, south of
9 Des Moines, in 1930, one of nine children who grew up on the
10 family farm with humble beginnings; he earned his bachelor's
11 degree in speech and history from Iowa Northern University in
12 1950; he earned his master's degree in speech education from
13 the State University of Iowa (University of Iowa) in 1955; he
14 earned his Ph.D. in Communication, Theater, and Education from
15 Indiana University in 1963; and

16 WHEREAS, Dr. Brommel taught at Northeastern Illinois
17 University for 28 years; in retirement, he was one of the
18 institution's most generous donors; he was a great teacher,
19 mentor, scholar, and philanthropist; among the many
20 Northeastern Illinois University students that he influenced
21 are Sarah Feigenholtz (B.A. 1978 Political Science and Speech),
22 Alice M. McGee (B.A. 1984 Speech), Jarice Hanson (B.A. 1976
23 Speech), Timothy Portokalis (B.A. 1985 Nontraditional Degree

1 Program-Kaskaskia), Raymond Wohl (M.A. 1994 Speech), Debra J.
2 Niemann (B.A. 1976 Speech), Libby Komaiko (B.A. 1977
3 Nontraditional Degree Program-University Without Walls),
4 Richard Lindberg (B.A. 1974 History, M.A. 1987 History), and
5 Robert Jordan (M.A. 1994 Speech); and

6 WHEREAS, Dr. Brommel leaves a significant legacy at
7 Northeastern; among his contributions, he established the
8 following: the Brommel Doctoral Scholarship to support
9 graduate students who want to pursue a doctorate, the
10 Distinguished Research Professor Award to provide a research
11 stipend for current faculty, the Brommel Awards for Student
12 Research and Creative Activities to recognize outstanding work
13 in the annual student symposium, 25 scholarships named in honor
14 of key people in his life, primarily faculty and students at
15 Northeastern, but also leaders of the university's resident
16 dance company, Ensemble Español, as well as mentors and
17 students of and from his various high school and college
18 teaching posts, the Brommel-Hahs Lectureship in the College of
19 Arts and Science, and the Bernard J. Brommel Endowment in
20 Communication, Media and Theatre to support a faculty position;
21 and

22 WHEREAS, Northeastern Illinois University is hosting a
23 memorial to honor the life and legacy of Dr. Brommel on
24 December 1, 2018; and

1 WHEREAS, Dr. Brommel is survived by his partner of over 20
2 years, Carl Ratner, and his children, Michaela, Brian, Debra,
3 Brent, Brad, and Blair; therefore, be it

4 RESOLVED, BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE
5 HUNDREDTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, that we
6 offer our heartiest condolences to the family and friends of
7 Dr. Bernard J. Brommel and honor the lasting legacy he left for
8 his students, colleagues, mentees, and many others; and be it
9 further

10 RESOLVED, That a suitable copy of this resolution be
11 presented to the family of Dr. Brommel as an expression of our
12 deepest sympathy.