



SR2072

LRB100 23590 ALS 42632 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 Honorable Judge Robert L. Dannehl of Watseka, who passed away on September 23, 2018; and

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WHEREAS, Judge Dannehl was born in Thawville to William and Gussie Racuglen Dannehl on September 6, 1926; the ninth of 12 children, he moved to Onarga and attended Onarga Public Schools; at the age of 17, he served in the United States Navy during World War II as a volunteer; he served in anti-submarine warfare in the North Atlantic arena in the winter of 1944 and 1945; he operated a top-secret high-frequency direction finder and was privy to the highly confidential knowledge that the German secret code had been broken; he attended the University of Illinois and graduated from the University of Illinois College of Law in June 1950; while an undergraduate, he played varsity basketball for the Fighting Illini during the 1945-46 season and was a member of the Sigma Pi Fraternity; he married Ruth Ann Nielsen on June 10, 1951; and

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WHEREAS, Judge Dannehl opened a general law office in Watseka with his law classmate in September 1950; he served two terms as state's attorney of Iroquois County; in 1976, he was appointed Circuit Judge; his service commenced on January 1, 1977 and concluded with his retirement on October 31, 1995; he

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1 served in Iroquois, Kankakee, and Will counties; and

2 WHEREAS, Judge Dannehl was active both locally and
3 professionally; he served as Commander of the American Legion
4 Post #23 in 1955, was a Charter Member of the Watseka Elks
5 Lodge 446, a charter member of the Watseka Jaycees, and the
6 chairman of the fundraising committee that built Legion Park
7 swimming pool; he was a member of several local boards,
8 including the American Red Cross, the Watseka Library, the
9 Watseka First Trust & Savings Bank, and the Grand Prairie
10 Seminary in Onarga; he was a member of the local, state, and
11 American Bar Association and the American Judicature Society;
12 he served on the Illinois Bar Association Committee to revise
13 and rewrite the Illinois Criminal Code; he was an original
14 board member and founder of an attorney assistance program to
15 aid counsel with substance abuse programs; among his
16 achievements, he was especially proud of a six-year appointment
17 by the Illinois Supreme Court to the Supervisory Committee on
18 Jury Instructions in Civil Cases; and

19 WHEREAS, Judge Dannehl was baptized in the Onarga United
20 Methodist Church and remained a member of the Watseka First
21 United Methodist Church until his passing; and

22 WHEREAS, Judge Dannehl was preceded in death by his wife,
23 Ruth; and

1 WHEREAS, Judge Dannehl is survived by his children, Dr.
2 Karl N. (Mary) Dannehl and Sara J. (Robert) Mikuta-Henry; his
3 grandchildren, Joseph Robert Mikuta, Nicholas James (Gina)
4 Mikuta, John Zeitler Dannehl, Cherylyn Henry, Laurin Henry
5 (Andrew) Ewing; his great-grandchild, Nicholas James Mikuta
6 Jr.; his brother, Wayne (Carole) Dannehl; his brother-in-law,
7 Charles Lucas; and his many nieces, nephews, great-nieces,
8 great-nephews, great-great-nieces and great-great-nephews;
9 therefore, be it

10 RESOLVED, BY THE SENATE OF THE ONE HUNDREDTH GENERAL
11 ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, that we mourn the passing of
12 Honorable Judge Robert L. Dannehl and extend our sincere
13 condolences to his family, friends, and all who knew and loved
14 him; and be it further

15 RESOLVED, That a suitable copy of this resolution be
16 presented to the family of Judge Dannehl as an expression of
17 our deepest sympathy.