



SR0544

LRB101 12919 ALS 61754 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 Penn Nelson of Champaign, who passed away on May 1, 2019; and

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WHEREAS, Penn Nelson was born to Lloyd William and Evelyn Penn Nelson on November 26, 1935; he was raised with his sister, Betty Lloyd Nelson (Bauer) in Edina, Minnesota, where he remained through college; he married Barbara Jean Joffe at his parents' home on August 3, 1962; and

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WHEREAS, Penn Nelson worked for Hart Schaffner & Marx; he then transferred to work in the custom-tailored clothing business in Champaign-Urbana; during his 18 years in the clothing business, he had the task of measuring the University of Illinois basketball team for custom-tailored blazers during the Harv Schmidt era; he was also the supplier of the original double-knit orange blazer for then-Illinois basketball coach Bob Blackman; after a series of careers, including owning Ye Olde Ice Cream Shoppe and other retail and sales jobs, he was approached and accepted the opportunity to open a Norrell, now Spherion, staffing franchise in 1981; under his leadership, Norrell earned many awards from the corporate office as well as the local community, including the Chamber of Commerce Small Business of the Year in 1996; and

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1 WHEREAS, Penn Nelson was a committed volunteer and
2 philanthropist in Champaign-Urbana, including his most recent
3 participation as a past president and Paul Harris Fellow of C-U
4 Sunrise Rotary, a member of the Foundation Board for the Don
5 Moyer Boys & Girls Club, where he was also a longtime board
6 member, a member of the Champaign Parks Foundation Board, the
7 United Way Campaign Chairman in 2002, and as a lifetime member
8 of the Optimist Club and Phi Gamma Delta; and

9 WHEREAS, Penn Nelson was an avid fan of the Illini and
10 attended many sporting events at the University of Illinois;
11 his favorite sport was golf, and he enjoyed teaching his
12 daughters and grandchildren about the sport and playing with
13 his wife and family at the Urbana Golf and Country Club; and

14 WHEREAS, Penn Nelson is survived by his wife, Barb; his
15 children, Michele (Rob) Baker and Cindy (Mike) Somers; his
16 grandchildren, Robby, Patrick, Justin, Chelsea, and Lainey;
17 his sister, Betty Bauer; and his nephews, Mark, Chris, and
18 Bruce Bauer; therefore, be it

19 RESOLVED, BY THE SENATE OF THE ONE HUNDRED FIRST GENERAL
20 ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, that we mourn the passing of
21 William Penn Nelson and extend our sincere condolences to his
22 family, friends, and all who knew and loved him; and be it

1 further

2 RESOLVED, That a suitable copy of this resolution be
3 presented to the family of Penn Nelson as an expression of our
4 deepest sympathy.