



SR0882

LRB101 16212 MST 65584 r

1

SENATE RESOLUTION

2

WHEREAS, The members of the Illinois Senate are saddened to learn of the death of John Allen "Al" Mergens, who passed away on December 7, 2019; and

3

4

5

WHEREAS, Al Mergens was born in Chicago to John and Ana Mergens; he served as an engineer and firefighter in damage control with the U.S. Coast Guard from 1955 to 1957; and

6

7

8

WHEREAS, Al Mergens became a volunteer member of the Elk Grove Fire Department in 1961; he became a full-time, paid firefighter in 1967; he worked his way up from firefighter to lieutenant and ultimately captain in 1972, a role he held until he retired in 1999; and

9

10

11

12

13

WHEREAS, Al Mergens served as the first chief of the fire department, a group of 40 volunteer firefighters who worked out of a barn; he took the department from a volunteer force to a full-time, professional agency with multiple stations; and

14

15

16

17

WHEREAS, Al Mergens was affectionately known as "Capt. Al"; in his retirement, he visited Elk Grove's fire stations regularly, staying in touch with the latest technology and advancements in fire safety; and

18

19

20

1 WHEREAS, Al Mergens was preceded in death by his wife of 60
2 years, Celine, and his parents; and

3 WHEREAS, Al Mergens is survived by his children, Allen J.
4 (Nancy), James L. (MaryBeth), and Robin A. (Anthony) Fabisiak;
5 his grandchildren, Daniel Mergens, Kelly (Nick) Hildebrandt,
6 Meaghan (Aaron) Sanfillippo, Adam (Colleen) and Scott (Andrea)
7 Mergens, and Sarah Fabisiak; his great-grandchildren, Brady
8 Nicholas and Melanie Grace Hildebrandt; and his siblings,
9 Marilyn Gliniecki, Robert (Dorothy) Mergens, Donald (Diane)
10 Mergens, and Susan (John) Renner; therefore, be it

11 RESOLVED, BY THE SENATE OF THE ONE HUNDRED FIRST GENERAL
12 ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, that we mourn the passing of
13 John Allen "Al" Mergens and extend our sincere condolences to
14 his family, friends, and all who knew and loved him; and be it
15 further

16 RESOLVED, That a suitable copy of this resolution be
17 presented to the family of Al Mergens as an expression of our
18 deepest sympathy.