



SR1407

LRB101 22115 ECR 73138 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 Judge Fred William Reither, who passed away on August 10, 2020; and

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WHEREAS, Judge Fred Reither was born to Fred G. Reither and Lydia A. (Kingston) Reither in Beardstown on April 5, 1924; he graduated from Beardstown High School in 1942; he served during World War Two with the 75th Infantry Division during the Battle of the Bulge, the Battle of Rhineland, and the Colmar Pocket; his division served in Wales, England, France, Belgium, Holland and Germany, with his group being among the first troops to arrive in Germany; they also helped liberate Holland; during his service, he held the prestigious Combat Infantryman Badge; he attended Blackburn College, Alfred University, and City College of New York and finished law school on the GI Bill at the University of Illinois College of Law, earning a Doctor of Jurisprudence in 1950; and

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WHEREAS, Judge Fred Reither served as Circuit Court Judge of the 8th Judicial Circuit for Cass County for 45 years; he also served one term as Chief Judge; he retired in 2001 as one of the longest serving justices in the State of Illinois; he was known for his grace, fairness, and kindness as a judge; and

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1 WHEREAS, Judge Fred Reither served as the vice president of
2 the Young Democrats of Illinois under then President Paul
3 Simon; he also served as a Delegate at Large to the 1952
4 Democratic National Convention; he was a life long member of
5 the Veterans of Foreign Wars, the American Legion, and the
6 Illinois State and Cass County Bar Associations; he was also a
7 lifelong member of St John's Lutheran Church and served in
8 various capacities over the years; and

9 WHEREAS, Judge Fred Reither was a wonderful dancer and
10 enjoyed dancing at the Blackhawk Village Inn Pump Room, the
11 Jacksonville VFW, Nichols Park, the Illinois State Fair dance
12 floor, the Elks, and Leo and Bud's; he loved music and will be
13 remembered for singing with great gusto; he was also a lifelong
14 Chicago Cubs fan; and

15 WHEREAS, Judge Fred Reither was preceded in death by his
16 parents; his brothers, Virgil (Louise Guthrie), Ralph
17 (Isabelle Jeffries), and Charles (Valerie Stephens); and two of
18 his favorite dance partners and loves, Mary Esther Knight and
19 Robertine Erixon; and

20 WHEREAS, Judge Fred Reither is survived by his two
21 children, Fred Virgil Reither (Trey) and Shelley Lydia
22 (Elizabeth Belletire House); his grandchildren, Steven and
23 Leah Reither; his step-grandson, Jacob House (Taylor Ley); his

1 great-granddaughter, Charlotte House; his brother, Clarence
2 John Walter Reither (Vera nee Merz); his five nieces and
3 nephews, David Reither (Brenda), Karen Reither (Bill Wallace),
4 Mark Reither (Kathy), Gwen Schumacher (Tom), and Paul Reither;
5 and his great-nieces and great-nephews; therefore, be it

6 RESOLVED, BY THE SENATE OF THE ONE HUNDRED FIRST GENERAL
7 ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, that we mourn the passing of
8 Judge Fred William Reither and extend our sincere condolences
9 to his family, friends, and all who knew and loved him; and be
10 it further

11 RESOLVED, That a suitable copy of this resolution be
12 presented to the family of Judge Fred Reither as an expression
13 of our deepest sympathy.