



SR0428

LRB102 19029 MST 27793 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 Donald E. Dobrino, who passed away on July 4, 2021; and

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WHEREAS, Donald Dobrino was born in Mt. Olive to Thomas and Mary Dobrino on February 3, 1935; he graduated from Mt. Olive High School in 1953, where he excelled in all major sports and led the Wildcats to four consecutive South Central Conference Championships; he was recruited by several Division 1 universities and accepted a full scholarship to the University of Iowa to play football and baseball for the Hawkeyes; and

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WHEREAS, Donald Dobrino excelled in both football and baseball while at Iowa; the Hawkeyes won the Big Ten Championship in 1956, which earned them a trip to Pasadena to play in the Rose Bowl, where they defeated Oregon State 35 to 18; as a pitcher for the baseball team, he became known as the "Strikeout King" of the Big Ten; after graduation, he was drafted by the Washington Football Team but later accepted an offer from the Pittsburgh Pirates and advanced as far as Triple A; and

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WHEREAS, Donald Dobrino decided to look for more stable

1 employment in order to support his wife, Jeanette, and a  
2 growing family; he accepted a teaching job with the Depue  
3 School District, where he taught physical education and  
4 coached several sports; while there, he initiated a football  
5 program before accepting a coaching position at Gillespie High  
6 School; he coached the Gillespie Miners to many successful  
7 seasons, including 1976 and 1990 appearances in the 2A finals;  
8 and

9 WHEREAS, Donald Dobrino married his second wife, Cyrela  
10 "Cookie" Dobrino in 1978; and

11 WHEREAS, Donald Dobrino retired in 1996 from teaching but  
12 continued coaching the Miners; he returned to coaching at Mt.  
13 Olive, and the Wildcats won two Prairie State Conference  
14 titles and qualified for the IHSA football playoffs seven  
15 times; and

16 WHEREAS, Donald Dobrino's coaching record ranks him as the  
17 14th winningest high school coach in Illinois of all time; he  
18 was inducted into the Illinois High School Hall of fame in 1987  
19 and was named West Central Illinois Coach of the Year in 2006  
20 and 2008; in 2006, he was inducted into the National High  
21 School Athletics Coaches Association Hall of Fame and named  
22 Coach of the Week by the Chicago Bears; and

1           WHEREAS, Donald Dobrino was affectionately known as  
2 "Duke"; he coached his son, Robert Dobrino, two stepsons, Rick  
3 and Ed Herrera, and finally his grandson, Daniel Dobrino,  
4 spanning 50 years of coaching; he always wanted to be out on  
5 the field with young coaches and young athletes teaching them  
6 what he had learned in a life-time of coaching; and

7           WHEREAS, Donald Dobrino was preceded in death by his  
8 parents and his brothers, Thomas and Robert; and

9           WHEREAS, Donald Dobrino is survived by his wife, Cyrelda;  
10 his children, Lori Small, Carla Smith (Jim Freytag), Robert  
11 (Diane) Dobrino, and Donette (Michael) Clark; his stepsons,  
12 Rich (Theresa) and Edward (Bernie) Herrera; his grandchildren,  
13 Jeremy, Sean, Brandon (Ginny), Daniel, Jenna, Mitchell,  
14 Courtney, Kyleigh, Osiana, and Marquez; and his  
15 great-granddaughters, Makenna and Keira; therefore, be it

16           RESOLVED, BY THE SENATE OF THE ONE HUNDRED SECOND GENERAL  
17 ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, that we mourn the passing of  
18 Donald E. Dobrino and extend our sincere condolences to his  
19 family, friends, and all who knew and loved him; and be it  
20 further

21           RESOLVED, That a suitable copy of this resolution be  
22 presented to the family of Donald Dobrino as an expression of

SR0428

-4-

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1 our deepest sympathy.