



SR0456

LRB102 19302 LAW 28068 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 Lester Eugene "Gene" Rubley of Springfield, who passed away on August 18, 2020; and

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WHEREAS, Gene Rubley was born in Springfield to Lester J. and Aurelia Piper Rubley on July 18, 1930; he graduated from Feitshans High School in 1947; he attended Springfield College; he served in the U.S. Army during the Korean War, where he attained the rank of sergeant first class and received the Good Conduct Award; and

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WHEREAS, Gene Rubley worked as a cashier and the supervisor of invoicing for Allis Chalmers, which became Fiat Allis, until the business closed; and

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WHEREAS, Gene Rubley was very involved in theater in Springfield and participated both as an actor and a volunteer in numerous plays and musicals; he held many leading and supporting roles, and his favorite role was King's Prime Minister in The King and I at the Springfield Municipal Opera (Muni) in 1971; he was in the television miniseries The Awakening Land with Hal Holbrook and Elizabeth Montgomery; he was a longtime trustee of the Muni, and the Lundgren/Rubley building, which is used for set construction at the MUNI site,

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1 was renamed in his honor; and

2 WHEREAS, Gene Rubley belonged to a number of organizations  
3 and served as the vice-president of the Springfield Area Arts  
4 Council and the Illinois Community Theatre Association, the  
5 secretary/treasurer of Lutheran Charities, a member of the  
6 Capitol Township Board of Auditors, the chairman of the  
7 Illinois Community Theatre Festival, and the president of  
8 Sangamon County Young Republicans; he served on the boards of  
9 the Springfield Theater Guild, the Illinois Theatre  
10 Association, the Great American People Show, and United  
11 Community Services; he was a member of the  
12 Artists-in-Residence Panel of the Illinois Arts Council; he  
13 was a guest lecturer on Community Arts Management at Sangamon  
14 State University; he received the Mayor's Award for the Arts  
15 in 1990; and

16 WHEREAS, Gene Rubley was a longtime member of Grace  
17 Lutheran Church, where he sang in the church choir for many  
18 years; in retirement, he volunteered at the Grace Food Pantry  
19 and as a docent at the Abraham Lincoln Presidential Museum; in  
20 addition to theater, he always loved dogs, art, and travel; he  
21 was also known for his collections of nutcrackers and masks;  
22 he was affectionately referred to by his friends as "Uncle  
23 Gene"; and

1           WHEREAS, Gene Rubley was preceded in death by his parents;  
2 his brother, Jack K. Rubley; his sister, Joyce Lambert; his  
3 niece, Kay Ellen Rice Bell; and his stepfather, Clarence  
4 Christian; and

5           WHEREAS, At the time of his death, Gene Rubley was  
6 survived by his niece, Brenda Reid; his nephew, Robert  
7 Reynolds; his several great-nieces and great-nephews,  
8 including Kirsten Collison and Heather, Joshua, Rebecca, and  
9 Kevin Reid; his cousins, Jan (Rubley) Thies and Don Thannen;  
10 and his numerous friends; therefore, be it

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

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