



SR1212

LRB102 28997 LAW 40897 r

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SENATE RESOLUTION

2           WHEREAS, The members of the Illinois Senate are saddened  
3 to learn of the deaths of Lee and JoAnne Cabutti of Champaign,  
4 who passed away on September 8 and September 11, 2022,  
5 respectively; and

6           WHEREAS, Lee Cabutti was born to John and Maria Cabutti in  
7 Stiritz on April 5, 1925; he graduated from Johnston City High  
8 School in 1944; he attended Southern Illinois University  
9 Carbondale (SIU) from 1944 to 1948, where he played on the  
10 N.A.I.A. fourth place basketball team in 1944-1945, the  
11 N.A.I.A. National Champions basketball team in 1946-1947, and  
12 the Corn Bowl championship football team in 1947; he was named  
13 the most valuable football player at SIU in 1946; he served as  
14 president of the senior class and president of the Sphinx  
15 Club; and

16           WHEREAS, Lee Cabutti taught and coached in Herrin from  
17 1948 to 1955, where he was the head football, basketball, and  
18 track coach; his teams won the first conference championships  
19 in football and basketball in school history in 1954-1955; he  
20 then taught and coached in Champaign from 1956 to 1986,  
21 serving as assistant football coach for 10 years, athletic  
22 director for 25 years, and head basketball coach for 30 years;  
23 his basketball team won third place in the state tournament in

1 1969, and his teams played in the Sweet 16 three times;  
2 overall, his teams won 538 basketball games, making him the  
3 winningest coach in school history; and

4 WHEREAS, Lee Cabutti spent 40 summers at the National  
5 Music Camp in Interlochen, Michigan, where he served as the  
6 director of the High School Boys Division for the last 30; he  
7 also served on the board of the Developmental Services Center  
8 in Champaign for six years; and

9 WHEREAS, Lee Cabutti was inducted into the Athletic  
10 Director's Hall of Fame in 1986 and the Basketball Hall of Fame  
11 in 1974; he was the recipient of the Buzzy O'Connor Award by  
12 the Illinois Basketball Coaches Association in 1987; he became  
13 the namesake of the athletic field near the High School Boys  
14 Division of the National Music Camp in 2002 and the basketball  
15 court at Champaign Central High School in 2005; and

16 WHEREAS, Lee Cabutti spent his retirement years working on  
17 five acres of land west of Champaign, selling firewood,  
18 apples, peaches, raspberries, blackberries, and tomatoes; he  
19 also organized a travel group that has taken trips all over the  
20 world and now consists of over 150 people; and

21 WHEREAS, JoAnne Cabutti was born to Carl and Meda Barlow  
22 in Carbondale on April 9, 1930; she graduated from Herrin

1 Township High School, earning her high school diploma in only  
2 three years; she graduated from St. Luke's Hospital School of  
3 Nursing in St. Louis, Missouri in 1951; and

4 WHEREAS, JoAnne Cabutti worked as an airline stewardess  
5 for a brief time before returning to Herrin, becoming a staff  
6 nurse at the Veteran's Administration Hospital in Marion; she  
7 then worked as a staff nurse at Provena Covenant Medical  
8 Center from 1957 until she retired in 1992, at which time she  
9 opened the first recovery room in what was then known as Mercy  
10 Hospital; she was named Employee of the Year in 1970; and

11 WHEREAS, Following her retirement, JoAnne Cabutti became a  
12 life member of the Provena Covenant Auxiliary, which later  
13 became known as Volunteer Services; during her time in the  
14 organization, she created the JoAnne Cabutti Mitten Tree  
15 project and received a commendation for volunteering over  
16 22,500 hours at Provena; she also enjoyed growing beautiful  
17 roses and sharing them with others, winning Best of Show in a  
18 local rose competition; and

19 WHEREAS, Lee and JoAnne Cabutti were married in Herrin on  
20 October 1, 1955; they moved to Champaign in 1957, where they  
21 had recently celebrated 67 years of marriage; and

22 WHEREAS, Lee and JoAnne Cabutti were members of the Holy

1 Cross Catholic Church in Champaign, where they both served as  
2 eucharistic ministers; they received the Keys to the City of  
3 Champaign for their volunteerism and service to the community  
4 on March 18, 2015; and

5 WHEREAS, Lee and JoAnne Cabutti were preceded in death by  
6 their son, Mike Cabutti; Lee's sisters, Rose Brock and Lena  
7 Marshall; Lee's cousin, Eddie Dotta; and Lee's brother-in-law,  
8 Clem Brock; and

9 WHEREAS, Lee and JoAnne Cabutti are survived by their son,  
10 Mark Cabutti; their daughter-in-law, Gay White Cabutti; their  
11 granddaughters, Elise Cabutti and Emma Cabutti Barton  
12 (Austin); and Lee's cousin, Magdeline Dotta; therefore, be it

13 RESOLVED, BY THE SENATE OF THE ONE HUNDRED SECOND GENERAL  
14 ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, that we mourn the passing of  
15 Lee and JoAnne Cabutti and extend our sincere condolences to  
16 their family, friends, and all who knew and loved them; and be  
17 it further

18 RESOLVED, That a suitable copy of this resolution be  
19 presented to the family of Lee and JoAnne Cabutti as an  
20 expression of our deepest sympathy.