



SR1343

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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 Stephen "Steve" Riess of Hawthorn Woods, who passed away on November 8, 2022; and

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WHEREAS, Steve Riess was born to Hans and Gladys (Ross) Riess in Evanston on January 5, 1953; as a boy, he spent his summers camping, fishing, and learning to identify all varieties of trees and birds; and

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WHEREAS, Steve Riess served as a trustee of Hawthorn Woods Village for over 23 years; he first took the oath of office on May 10, 1999, and he was reelected for another five terms; during his tenure, he was a strong advocate for the purchase of equipment and technology to ensure village staff had the best tools possible to smoothly perform their customer service duties to the residents and the business community; he was instrumental in securing radios in all Public Works trucks and led the effort towards providing recycling containers in all public parks and facilities; he was also a member of the Village's Business Continuity Work Group, and he was a strong leader in advising staff in technology; and

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WHEREAS, Steve Riess additionally served the Hawthorn Woods community by dedicating his time to various committees;

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1 he was first appointed to the Finance Committee on January 13,
2 2009, where he passionately advocated for the importance of
3 providing a sustainable funding mechanism for the repair and
4 maintenance of village roads and provided institutional
5 knowledge about funding of past road programs; since October
6 21, 1999, he served on the Environmental Committee, now known
7 as the Sustainability Committee, where he created public
8 education programs and workshops; and

9 WHEREAS, Steve Riess' passion for environmental
10 preservation included his work in establishing a relationship
11 with the Chicago Regional Tree Initiative to collect data on
12 the Hawthorn Woods Tree Canopy, his leadership in applying for
13 and Hawthorn Woods being awarded seven Tree City Awards from
14 the National Arbor Day Foundation, his efforts to secure a
15 Community Growth Award from the National Arbor Day Foundation,
16 his work in creating the Heritage Tree Designation for the
17 village, his leadership in reviewing, revising, and updating
18 the village's Tree Ordinance, his efforts in investigating the
19 plausibility of creating floating habitat islands in village
20 waterways, his work to create a Tree Management Plan through a
21 grant from the Morton Arboretum and the U.S. Forestry
22 Department, his involvement in implementing a village-wide
23 annual Arbor Day observance by distributing trees to District
24 95 students and residents with over 2,000 saplings being
25 provided in the last seven years, his efforts to educate staff

1 and residents about the impact of phosphorus in lawncare
2 applications, his implementation of the Adopt-A-Highway
3 program along Old McHenry Road, and his volunteerism in
4 planting flower bulbs throughout Hawthorn Woods; and

5 WHEREAS, Steve Riess also dedicated his time with service
6 on the District 95 Alternative Employment Committee, promoting
7 careers that did not require a college education, such as the
8 trades, truck driving, and landscaping; through this work, he
9 served as a mentor to several high school and post high school
10 students and recruited county businesses to provide
11 internships or work/study programs; he also served as a
12 director to the Solid Waste Agency of Lake County and was a
13 frequent lecturer at both the Ela Area Public Library and the
14 Fremont Public Library; and

15 WHEREAS, Steve Riess will be fondly remembered for his
16 quick wit, his love of good food, and his love for the
17 outdoors, where he felt most at home; and

18 WHEREAS, Steve Riess is survived by his loving wife,
19 MaryAnn; his daughters, Sarah and Rachel; his grandson,
20 Gabriel; and his brother, Martin; therefore, be it

21 RESOLVED, BY THE SENATE OF THE ONE HUNDRED SECOND GENERAL
22 ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, that we mourn the passing of

1 Stephen "Steve" Riess and extend our sincere condolences to
2 his family, friends, and all who knew and loved him; and be it
3 further

4 RESOLVED, That a suitable copy of this resolution be
5 presented to the family of Steve Riess as an expression of our
6 deepest sympathy.