



SR0875

LRB103 40003 LAW 71321 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 Alan L. "Al" Larson, the former and longest-serving Mayor of the Village of Schaumburg, who passed away on March 19, 2024; and

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WHEREAS, Al Larson was born on October 21, 1938; he and his family moved to Schaumburg in the late 1960s; he earned an Associate of Science from William Rainey Harper College in Palatine; and

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WHEREAS, Al Larson began serving the Village of Schaumburg in 1973, when he was appointed public relations director and as a member of the village's first Environmental Committee; he was next appointed to the Zoning Board of Appeals and was named chairman of the Environmental Committee in 1974; and

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WHEREAS, Al Larson began his political tenure as a village trustee of Schaumburg in 1975, a position he held across three terms for a total of 12 years; he reintroduced and revitalized the concept of a Schaumburg Historic District to aid in the preservation of historic buildings, leading to the establishment of the Olde Schaumburg Centre Historic District; during his tenure, he also co-founded the Spring Valley Nature Sanctuary, and he received the 1976 Environmental Award from

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1 the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency for his efforts,  
2 becoming one of only two locally elected officials to receive  
3 the award; and

4 WHEREAS, Al Larson served as Mayor of the Village of  
5 Schaumburg for eight terms from 1987 to 2019; he led many  
6 development projects in the retail, residential, and  
7 commercial sectors, significantly raising Schaumburg's profile  
8 locally and nationally; he spearheaded the initiative for the  
9 village to acquire the privately-owned Schaumburg Airpark as a  
10 public airfield in 1994, known today as the Schaumburg  
11 Regional Airport; he oversaw the village's acquisition of Town  
12 Square Shopping Center in 1995; he built collaborative  
13 relationships with local government partners, bringing a  
14 professional baseball team to the village in 1999; he also  
15 supervised the village's acquisition of a previously  
16 underproductive tract of land on Schaumburg's northeast side  
17 that became the Renaissance Schaumburg Convention Center Hotel  
18 in 2016; and

19 WHEREAS, Al Larson was also instrumental in broadening  
20 cultural programming through helping launch the annual Prairie  
21 Arts Festival, initiating the development of a theater  
22 workshop for young people, promoting the development of the  
23 Schaumburg Youth Orchestra, and pushing for the establishment  
24 of a youth ballet troupe that led to the founding of the

1 Schaumburg Dance Ensemble; in recognition of his achievements  
2 in the arts, the Prairie Center was renamed the Al Larson  
3 Prairie Center for the Arts in his honor in 2017; after  
4 finishing his service as mayor in 2019, he was appointed to the  
5 village's 1% for Art Committee and Cultural Commission, where  
6 he continued to serve until his passing, and he helped fund the  
7 Prairie Center Arts Foundation's Young Artist Assistance  
8 Program in 2020; and

9 WHEREAS, Al Larson held leadership positions in several  
10 organizations, which included serving as past president and  
11 vice president of the Illinois Municipal League, chair of  
12 Joint Action Water Agency, co-chair of the STAR Line Steering  
13 Committee, and past president of the Northwest Municipal  
14 Conference, where he also served as a member of the executive  
15 board and as past chair of the Transportation Committee; he  
16 served on the boards of Arts Alliance Illinois, the Chicago  
17 Area Transportation Study, the Illinois Public Airports  
18 Association, and PACE; he was a member of the O'Hare Noise  
19 Compatibility Commission, the Council of Mayors, and the  
20 Transportation Infrastructure and Services Steering Committee  
21 for the National League of Cities; he also served on the  
22 15-member Chicago Metropolitan Agency for Planning and its  
23 executive committee, charged with integrating land use and  
24 transportation planning for the 7-county area of northeastern  
25 Illinois; and

1           WHEREAS, Al Larson was known for his mentorship, charisma,  
2           and love for Schaumburg; he will be remembered as a visionary  
3           who dedicated more than 45 years of his life to serving  
4           Schaumburg, ensuring its future for generations to come;  
5           therefore, be it

6           RESOLVED, BY THE SENATE OF THE ONE HUNDRED THIRD GENERAL  
7           ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, that we mourn the passing of  
8           Alan L. "Al" Larson, the former and longest-serving Mayor of  
9           the Village of Schaumburg, and extend our sincere condolences  
10          to his family, friends, and all who knew and loved him; and be  
11          it further

12          RESOLVED, That a suitable copy of this resolution be  
13          presented to the family of Al Larson as an expression of our  
14          deepest sympathy.