



SR0464

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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 William J. Adelman of Oak Park, who passed away on September 15, 2009; and

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WHEREAS, He was born on the West Side of Chicago and was a graduate of Oak Park and River Forest High School in Oak Park; he received a Bachelor's degree in history from Elmhurst College in 1955 and a Master's degree in American history from the University of Chicago in 1964; and

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WHEREAS, He taught at Jefferson Junior High School in Berwyn in the late 1950s and later Morton West High School in Berwyn; from 1966 to 1991 he taught labor and industrial relations at the University of Illinois at Chicago and later became a professor emeritus at the University's Institute of Labor and Industrial Relations; and

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WHEREAS, William J. Adelman was not only a fierce advocate for the labor movement at the ground level, but also a devoted historian and a preserver of its legacy; indeed, as a renowned labor expert, he was known as "the people's scholar" because of his passion for wanting to teach as many people as possible about the labor movement, its virtues, and its relevance today; and

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1 WHEREAS, He authored many books on the labor movement in
2 Chicago, including *Touring Pullman, Haymarket Revisited*, and
3 *Pilsen and the West Side*; he also helped write and research
4 films, including *Packingtown, USA*; and he was the narrator of
5 the 1983 documentary about the Pullman Strike of 1894, entitled
6 *Palace Cars and Paradise: The Pullman Model Town*; and

7 WHEREAS, William J. Adelman is survived by his sons, Marc
8 and Michael; his daughters, Michelle, Marguerite, and Jessica;
9 his life partner, David Staley; his ex-wife, Nora; his sister,
10 Sandra Walsh; and his five grandchildren; therefore, be it

11 RESOLVED, BY THE SENATE OF THE NINETY-SIXTH GENERAL
12 ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, that we mourn, along with
13 his family and friends, the passing of William J. Adelman; and
14 be it further

15 RESOLVED, That a suitable copy of this resolution be
16 presented to the family of William J. Adelman as a symbol of
17 our sincere sympathy.