



HR1374

LRB099 22449 GRL 49869 r

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HOUSE RESOLUTION

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WHEREAS, The members of the Illinois House of Representatives are saddened to learn of the death of Lawrence "Larry" Matkaitis of Mt. Greenwood, who passed away on July 9, 2016; and

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WHEREAS, Lawrence Matkaitis was a neighborhood guy; he was born in Mt. Greenwood on May 25, 1948, and there he married and raised his family; he often joked that the longest he was ever away from Mt. Greenwood was when he was in the service; and

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WHEREAS, Lawrence Matkaitis attended grammar school at St. Christina Catholic Church; after graduation, he attended Brother Rice High School; one of his proudest accomplishments in his teen years was becoming a licensed pilot; he attended Northern Illinois University until he entered the United States Army, where he served as a medic during the Vietnam War and was honorably discharged; and

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WHEREAS, Lawrence Matkaitis was very proud of his service to our country; he earned his paramedic license and worked as an emergency room technician before joining the Chicago Fire Department in its recently developed paramedic program, where he was stationed at Ambulance 42 at Engine 13's house at Lake and Dearborn; and

1           WHEREAS, Lawrence Matkaitis proudly served as the first  
2 Director of Emergency Medical Services for Chicago Fire  
3 Fighters Union Local #2; in the Chicago Fire Department, he  
4 rose to the rank of Assistant Deputy Fire Commissioner,  
5 Emergency Medical Operations, and Executive Assistant to the  
6 Fire Commissioner before retiring after 30 years of service;  
7 and

8           WHEREAS, In October of 2010, Lawrence Matkaitis began his  
9 second career in Chicago for the Office of the Illinois State  
10 Fire Marshal; after five years with the Office, he was  
11 appointed by Governor Pat Quinn to be the State Fire Marshal;  
12 he served as an advocate for fire fighters, paramedics, and the  
13 citizens of Illinois; he retired in 2015; and

14           WHEREAS, Lawrence Matkaitis was a proud member of several  
15 professional organizations, including the Associated Fire  
16 Fighters of Illinois, the International Association of Fire  
17 Fighters, the International Association of Fire Chiefs, the  
18 Fire Chiefs of Illinois, the Illinois Terrorism Task Force, the  
19 Advisory Committee of the Illinois State Fire Marshal, and the  
20 Executive Committee of the Illinois Emergency Medical Response  
21 Team; and

22           WHEREAS, During his career, Lawrence Matkaitis worked with

1 and was recognized by many professional organizations,  
2 including the United States Department of Homeland Security,  
3 the National Guard, the United States Secret Service, the  
4 Illinois Fire College, the Mutual Aid Box Alarm System, and the  
5 Office of Emergency Management in Chicago; and

6 WHEREAS, In addition to his professional responsibilities,  
7 Lawrence Matkaitis was the beloved husband of 38 years of  
8 Valerie; the devoted father of Amber (Louis) Rivera and Daniel  
9 Matkaitis; the "Big Lar" to Aliyah, Liliana, and Anais; the  
10 cherished brother of Jerry (Ruth) Matkaitis, Jimmy Matkaitis,  
11 Nancy (Jim) Sorensen, and Kathy (Kurt) Uhlir; the respected  
12 uncle of many; he is also survived by many dear family members  
13 and friends; therefore, be it

14 RESOLVED, BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE  
15 NINETY-NINTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, that we  
16 mourn the passing of Lawrence Matkaitis and extend our sincere  
17 condolences to his family, friends, and all who knew and loved  
18 him; and be it further

19 RESOLVED, That a suitable copy of this resolution be  
20 presented to the family of Lawrence Matkaitis as a symbol of  
21 our sympathy for his passing and our deep appreciation for his  
22 service to the State of Illinois.