



SR1570

LRB099 20868 GRL 45638 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 Ralph W. Thoma of McHenry, who passed away on January 28, 2016; and

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WHEREAS, Ralph Thoma was born on April 18, 1944 in Chicago; his parents were Matthew and Myrtle (nee Schmook) Thoma; he moved with his family the age of 12 to a lakefront home on McCullom Lake at the age of 12; and

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WHEREAS, Ralph Thoma was a 1962 graduate of McHenry High School; the following year, he became a member of the drum and bugle band for Veterans of Foreign Wars Post #4600; he graduated from DeVry Technical Institute as an electronics technician on September 4, 1964; and

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WHEREAS, Ralph Thoma entered the United States Army in June of 1965 and served in Vietnam; he received an aircraft maintenance diploma and a single rotor turbine utility helicopter maintenance course diploma, and worked on the double-bladed Chinook helicopter; and

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WHEREAS, After being discharged from the Army in 1967, Ralph Thoma tended bar for a time at The Question Mark in McHenry; the bar's owner, Roger Beu, would become an important

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1 part of Ralph's career by employing him for welding jobs; when
2 Roger Beu founded a new business, B & R Erectors, Ralph began
3 his career there, working on the installation, repair, and
4 relocation of bleachers in school gyms and sports fields; the
5 position took him all over the United States; he also designed
6 and installed the stadium seats in Willow Creek Church in
7 Barrington and the seating at Soldier Field; he returned to B &
8 R after his retirement from there, working on building and
9 putting together motors for bleachers until October of 2015;
10 and

11 WHEREAS, Ralph Thoma was a member of the Fox Lake American
12 Legion Post 703, McHenry Moose Lodge 691, a lifetime member of
13 PLAV Post #188, and a lifetime member and the first Vietnam
14 veteran to be made commander of Veterans of Foreign Wars Post
15 4600 in McHenry; he was also a member of Shepherd of the Hills
16 Lutheran Church in McHenry; and

17 WHEREAS, Ralph Thoma was preceded in death by his parents
18 and his brother, Ray (Ann) Thoma; and

19 WHEREAS, Ralph Thoma is survived by his wife of 28 years,
20 Pam; his step-children, Kym (Phil) Belyaev and Kevin (Valerie)
21 Diedrich; his grandchildren, Drew, Kati, Zach, Lexi, Colleen,
22 and Ryan; and his brothers, Robert Thoma, Ron (Maureen) Thoma,
23 and Michael (Karen) Thoma; therefore, be it

1 RESOLVED, BY THE SENATE OF THE NINETY-NINTH GENERAL
2 ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, that we, along with his
3 family and friends, mourn the passing of Ralph W. Thoma; and be
4 it further

5 RESOLVED, That a suitable copy of this resolution be
6 presented to the family of Ralph Thoma as an expression of our
7 sympathy.