

1

SENATE RESOLUTION

2

3

4

5

WHEREAS, The members of the Illinois Senate wish to express their sincere condolences to the family and friends of Rudolph "Rudy" Klena, who passed away on December 24, 2001; and

6

7

8

WHEREAS, Rudolph "Rudy" Klena was a retired sports shop owner who was instrumental in starting Little League baseball in Westmont; and

9

10

11

12

WHEREAS, Born in Chicago, Mr. Klena grew up in unincorporated Westmont at a time where the closest neighbor was a block away and there were more dirt roads than paved ones through the farms and prairies; and

13

14

15

16

WHEREAS, In 1956, Mr. Klena built a home in Darien for his wife and young children; he also opened a small sports equipment store in downtown Westmont called Rudy's Sports Shop; and

17

18

19

20

21

22

23

WHEREAS, Mr. Klena got a kick out of the kids coming in every spring and buying their new baseball bats with the money they'd saved all year, however, there weren't any organized leagues in the area, and the kids were always looking for someplace to play; as a result, Mr. Klena and a couple of other local fathers decided to organize Westmont's first Little League program; and

24

25

26

27

28

29

WHEREAS, In search of financial support, Mr. Klena approached the Comiskey family, then-owners of the Chicago White Sox and residents of Hinsdale, to ask for a contribution to start a league; help came in a big way from the Comiskey family, and Westmont's Little League Program was officially underway; and

30

31

WHEREAS, Mr. Klena closed his sports shop in the early 1960s, but continued working as a carpenter for local home

1 builders; in 1976 he retired and moved to Carson City,
2 Nevada; and

3 WHEREAS, The passing of Rudolph "Rudy" Klena will be
4 deeply felt by all who knew and loved him, especially his
5 wife of 61 years, LaFern; his son, Bill; his daughters, Nancy
6 Soong and Sue Merriwether; his brother, Dave; his sisters,
7 Vickie Guenther and Theresa Gottshalk; and his four
8 grandchildren; therefore, be it

9 RESOLVED, BY THE SENATE OF THE NINETY-SECOND GENERAL
10 ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, that we mourn, along with
11 all who knew him, the death of Rudolph "Rudy" Klena formerly
12 of Darien; and be it further

13 RESOLVED, That a suitable copy of this resolution be
14 presented to the family of Rudolph "Rudy" Klena with our
15 sincere condolences.