



SR0685

LRB100 13344 MST 27940 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 Donovan Francis Gardner of Bloomington, who passed away on June 24, 2017; and

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WHEREAS, Donovan Gardner was born at home in Toledo to Francis Raymond and Hazel Blair Gardner on October 1, 1932; he graduated from Cumberland County High School in 1950 and married Barbara Anne Dey in Greenville on July 5, 1952; he joined the United States Air Force in 1952, serving at stations in the U.S. and in French Morocco; he left active duty in 1956 with the rank of buck sergeant; and

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WHEREAS, Donovan Gardner moved to Pontiac in 1960 when he became president and CEO of the chamber of commerce; in 1962, he was named administrator of Evenglow Lodge, a position he held for over 20 years; he was also a United Methodist senior living consultant, traveling and working to improve care facilities across the U.S. and in Kazakhstan and Cuba; after he retired, he returned to Evenglow as a member of the board; one of the accomplishments during his tenure was the creation of the Memory Care Building, Evenglow Inn; for two years, he served as the interim president and CEO of Evenglow; and

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WHEREAS, Donovan Gardner was appointed to the Illinois

1 State Health Facilities Planning Board; he was a member of the
2 Livingston County Board, the Livingston County Historical
3 Society, and most recently, the Pontiac City Council; he played
4 a key role in developing Pontiac's Route 66 attractions and was
5 instrumental in securing the historic Strevell House; he
6 created the "32ers Club" for local men born in 1932; and

7 WHEREAS, Donovan Gardner was active in the United Methodist
8 Church, serving on the Conference Council, in ministries, and
9 with the district committee on nominations; he served on the
10 Illinois Great Rivers Conference Board of Trustees, the
11 personnel committee, and as a lay delegate; and

12 WHEREAS, Donovan Gardner and his sons became involved in
13 the Boy Scouts; he was Scoutmaster of Pontiac Troop 175 for
14 several years and was actively involved in the W.D. Boyce
15 Council; and

16 WHEREAS, Donovan Gardner married Carol Rickgauer Shaffer
17 on December 30, 1996; and

18 WHEREAS, Donovan Gardner had a passion for outdoor sports,
19 including camping, backpacking, bicycling, and canoeing, a
20 passion he shared with friends and family; he also enjoyed
21 tennis and basketball; and

1 WHEREAS, Donovan Gardner was preceded in death by his
2 parents; his first wife, Barbara; and his son, Timothy; and

3 WHEREAS, Donovan Gardner is survived by his wife, Carol;
4 his children, Brian (Trish) and Todd (Sarah); his stepchildren,
5 Julie (Nicolas) Houzeau, Kelley (Kent) Erhardt, and Dyke
6 (Kendra) Shaffer; and seven grandchildren; therefore, be it

7 RESOLVED, BY THE SENATE OF THE ONE HUNDREDTH GENERAL
8 ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, that we mourn the passing of
9 Donovan Francis Gardner, and extend our sincere condolences to
10 his family, friends, and all who knew and loved him; and be it
11 further

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