



SR0037

LRB101 07239 MST 52277 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 Bernard Francis "Bernie" DeVries of Antioch, who passed away on August 2, 2018; and

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WHEREAS, Bernie DeVries was born at home on the farm in Rib Falls, Wisconsin to Sam and Effie (Andringa) DeVries on December 29, 1925 and grew up in Sparta, Wisconsin; he left high school in 1943 during his junior year and enlisted in the U.S. Navy, serving as a shipfitter/hull technician; he married Helen Margaret Sands in Conshohocken, Pennsylvania on June 21, 1947; he served onboard the USS Saipan and was stationed at a variety of locations, including Cuba, Philadelphia, Norfolk, Key West, Great Lakes, and Pearl Harbor; he retired from the Navy in 1963 after 20 years of service and settled in Antioch; and

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WHEREAS, Bernie DeVries continued his welding career first in Trevor, Wisconsin and then in Libertyville until he retired in 1987; he was a member of UAW Local 1643; and

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WHEREAS, In 2002, Bernie DeVries received his high school diploma with the Sparta High School graduating class; it was a proud moment as he accepted his diploma and a certificate of recognition from the commander of the Fort McCoy Army Garrison

1 in Tomah, Wisconsin; and

2 WHEREAS, Bernie DeVries was a member of Antioch American
3 Legion Post 748, serving in many capacities, including post
4 commander numerous times; he was also a member of the Fleet
5 Reserve Association, the Retired Enlisted Association, VFW
6 Sequoit Post 4551, and the United Methodist Church of Antioch;
7 he and Helen volunteered for Meals on Wheels for many years and
8 were active in the USO at the Great Lakes Naval Base; and

9 WHEREAS, Bernie DeVries was an active beekeeper for over 35
10 years and was a member of the Lake County Beekeepers
11 Association; in 2014, he received the Illinois Beekeepers
12 Association Pioneer Award for his work in promoting beekeeping;
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14 WHEREAS, Bernie DeVries was preceded in death by his wife,
15 Helen; his parents; his brothers, Morris, Harvey, and Thomas;
16 his son-in-law, David J. Valentine; and his grandson, Jack
17 Bernard Valentine; and

18 WHEREAS, Bernie DeVries is survived by his daughters,
19 Margaret (James) Cole, Christine (Kenneth) Smith, Colleen
20 Valentine, and Dianna (Jack) Baseley; his brother, Gordon
21 DeVries; and numerous grandchildren and great-grandchildren;
22 therefore, be it

1 RESOLVED, BY THE SENATE OF THE ONE HUNDRED FIRST GENERAL
2 ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, that we mourn the passing of
3 Bernard Francis "Bernie" DeVries and extend our sincere
4 condolences to his family, friends, and all who knew and loved
5 him; and be it further

6 RESOLVED, That a suitable copy of this resolution be
7 presented to the family of Bernie DeVries as an expression of
8 our deepest sympathy.