



SR0188

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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 Harrison I. Steans, who passed away on February 26, 2019; and

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WHEREAS, Harrison Steans was born in Chicago on July 3, 1935; he spent his childhood in Lake Bluff and Springfield; his early years were marked by the energy, intellect, and achievement that would characterize his entire life; in high school, he was a champion in the Illinois State Latin Tournament, and he partnered with his father in bridge tournaments around the region, often winning, despite being the youngest to compete; and

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WHEREAS, Harrison Steans attended Princeton University on a Naval Reserve Officers Training Corps scholarship; he graduated cum laude from Princeton University in 1957 with a Bachelor of Arts in Economics; he married Lois M. Morrison and joined the Navy within weeks of graduating; he was stationed in Pearl Harbor and resigned his commission as a Lieutenant; and

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WHEREAS, Harrison Steans went to work as an assistant to the legendary Tom Watson at IBM; after several invigorating years, he left IBM in 1967 to form Illinois' first single-bank holding company to purchase the Hyde Park Bank & Trust; during

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1 his tenure as chairman, the organization grew from a single \$40
2 million bank to a six-bank holding company with assets
3 exceeding \$1.8 billion; in 1987, the bank holding company was
4 sold to NBD Corporation, now part of the J.P. Morgan Chase
5 organization; from 1973 through 1978, he served as Chairman of
6 the LaSalle National Bank, where he handled the bank's sale to
7 ABN; and

8 WHEREAS, In 1994, Harrison Steans and his daughter,
9 Jennifer, formed the Steans family investment firm, Financial
10 Investments Corporation (FIC), to make private equity
11 investments; and

12 WHEREAS, Harrison Steans believed strongly in giving back;
13 he served on many non-profit boards, including the Civic
14 Committee of the Commercial Club, the Chicago Humanities
15 Festival, the Chicago Botanic Garden, and The Ounce of
16 Prevention Fund; he also served as a Life Trustee of DePaul
17 University, Highland Park Hospital, and the Ravinia Festival;
18 having enjoyed being a part of the Ravinia family for many
19 decades, he took particular pride in being named the only male
20 member of the Ravinia Women's Board; and

21 WHEREAS, In 1988, Harrison Steans started the Steans Family
22 Foundation with his wife, Lois, and his three daughters,
23 Jennifer, Heather, and Robin; for nearly 30 years, the

1 foundation has worked hand in hand with the North Lawndale
2 community to promote stronger education, employment, health,
3 and safety for its residents; and

4 WHEREAS, Harrison Steans was awarded an honorary doctorate
5 by DePaul University, the Order of Lincoln, and many other
6 business and civic awards as well; and

7 WHEREAS, Harrison Steans will be remembered by all who knew
8 him for his entrepreneurial spirit, business acumen, booming
9 laugh, unflinching sense of humor, keen intellect, and his caring
10 interest in all around him; and

11 WHEREAS, The family of Harrison Steans will remember his
12 love of tennis, games of all sorts, clever word play, as well
13 as his outsized personality and boundless love and enthusiasm;
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15 WHEREAS, Harrison Steans is survived by his sister, Adeline
16 Morrison; his wife of 61 years, Lois; his daughters, Jennifer
17 (Jim Kastenholz), Illinois State Senator Heather (Leo Smith),
18 and Robin (Leonard Gail); his grandchildren, Ryan, Sam, Abby,
19 Jessica, Leah, Sydney, and Nick; and many beloved nieces and
20 grand-nephews and grand-nieces; and

21 WHEREAS, Harrison Steans will be remembered by all who knew

1 him not just for his many and significant accomplishments, but
2 for his personal integrity, sense of social justice, and his
3 warmth and playful sense of humor; therefore, be it

4 RESOLVED, BY THE SENATE OF THE ONE HUNDRED FIRST GENERAL
5 ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, that we mourn the passing of
6 Harrison I. Steans and extend our sincere condolences to his
7 family, friends, and all who knew and loved him; and be it
8 further

9 RESOLVED, That a suitable copy of this resolution be
10 presented to the family of Harrison Steans as an expression of
11 our deepest sympathy.