



HR1209

LRB098 21887 GRL 60749 r

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HOUSE RESOLUTION

2           WHEREAS, The members of the Illinois House of  
3 Representatives were saddened to learn of the passing of one of  
4 our oldest and dearest friends, Bill Luking, on June 12, 2014;  
5 and

6           WHEREAS, William H. Luking was born on August 7, 1947 in  
7 Connersville, Indiana, the eldest of the 9 children of Lowell  
8 and Elizabeth McCarthy Luking; he graduated from Connersville  
9 High School in 1965, graduated cum laude from the University of  
10 Notre Dame in 1969, and graduated from Northwestern University  
11 Law School in 1972; he later served his country as a First  
12 Lieutenant in the United States Army Reserve; and

13           WHEREAS, Bill Luking was one of the Statehouse's most  
14 knowledgeable advocates; he was a wise expert who understood  
15 State, local, and federal law; he loved his work and its focus  
16 on complex issues involving taxation, economic development,  
17 public pensions, and mass transit; and

18           WHEREAS, Beginning in 1986 under the administration of  
19 Mayor Harold Washington, Bill Luking represented the City of  
20 Chicago with commitment and skill; he would go on to serve as a  
21 key advocate for the City for nearly 30 more years under Mayors  
22 Richard M. Daley and Rahm Emanuel; and

1           WHEREAS, Bill Luking's talents, skills, and vast knowledge  
2 helped him fight for millions of Chicagoans, conservationists,  
3 and nature lovers as he represented the Chicago Public Schools,  
4 the Chicago Park District, the Chicago Transit Authority, the  
5 City Colleges of Chicago, and - one of his favorites - the  
6 Chicago Botanic Garden; and

7           WHEREAS, In his years of distinguished service, Bill Luking  
8 was instrumental in the passage of some of the most significant  
9 laws affecting Chicago and its landscape, including the  
10 construction of the new Comiskey Park, now U.S. Cellular Field;  
11 the expansion of Soldier Field; the privatization of Midway  
12 Airport; strengthening the City's authority over its school  
13 system; and reforms that helped preserve the solvency of  
14 Chicago's pension system and the retirement security of  
15 countless numbers of municipal workers; and

16           WHEREAS, Bill Luking and his firm, Luking and Associates,  
17 L.L.C., were proud of their pro bono work on behalf of the  
18 Chicago Christian Industrial League, Tuesday's Child, the  
19 Howard Area Community Association, the Chicago Children's  
20 Advocacy Center, and the Southwest Youth Collaborative; and

21           WHEREAS, Bill Luking was regarded by his peers, whether  
22 advocating on the same side of an issue or in opposition to

1 him, as intelligent, forthright, and honest; he paved the way  
2 for legislative success for many generations of newcomers to  
3 the Capitol's corridors and his mastery of legislative history  
4 and arcane Supreme Court decisions made him a better reference  
5 source than Google; and

6 WHEREAS, Bill Luking was universally regarded as a  
7 gentleman and a scholar, as well as a man of warmth and humor;  
8 and

9 WHEREAS, Bill Luking is survived by his siblings, Laura  
10 (Peter) Jamison, Meg Luking, Mary Anne Morris, Beth Luking,  
11 Gene (Debbie) Luking, Joe (Johnnie) Luking, Charlene (Larry)  
12 Wood, and Rosemary (Jay) Card; 13 nieces and nephews; 13  
13 great-nieces and great-nephews; and his friend and companion,  
14 Claire Manning; therefore, be it

15 RESOLVED, BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE  
16 NINETY-EIGHTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, that  
17 we, along with his family and friends, mourn the passing of  
18 Bill Luking; and be it further

19 RESOLVED, That a suitable copy of this resolution be  
20 presented to the family of Bill Luking as a symbol of our deep  
21 sympathies and great esteem.