



HR0497

LRB100 13119 MAS 27509 r

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HOUSE RESOLUTION

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WHEREAS, The members of the Illinois House of Representatives are saddened to learn of the death of Philip Bader Elfstrom of Batavia, who passed away on May 28, 2017; and

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WHEREAS, Philip Elfstrom was born in Evanston to Philip R. Elfstrom and Iras (Bader) Elfstrom on July 14, 1928; he attended high school in Wheaton and was a star football player at the University of Kentucky; and

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WHEREAS, Philip Elfstrom opened Bader Publishing, a print shop at the corner of Main Street and Batavia Avenue; he also operated the first art gallery in Batavia, where local artists could exhibit their works; and

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WHEREAS, In 1969, Philip Elfstrom was elected Assistant Township Supervisor and became a member of the Kane County Board; he became Chairman of the Kane County Board and held that position from 1971 to 1982; he then moved to the Forest Preserve Commission and was elected Forest Preserve District President; he later worked for the National Association of Counties in Washington D.C., where he was an advisor to President Ronald Reagan; and

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WHEREAS, Philip Elfstrom had the vision and imagination to

1 make things happen during his time in politics; he envisioned  
2 bike trails instead of abandoned railroad tracks along the Fox  
3 River; he arranged to have the Fabyan Parkway Bridge  
4 constructed when a new bridge over the Fox River was needed; he  
5 was also responsible for the development of Settler's Hill Golf  
6 Course and the acquisition of the Kane County Government Center  
7 property; Elfstrom Stadium was named after him because he was  
8 the person most responsible for bringing minor league baseball  
9 to Kane County; and

10 WHEREAS, Philip Elfstrom was responsible for the  
11 beautification of South Batavia Avenue when he planted trees  
12 and flowers along the Avenue and personally took the  
13 responsibility to water the trees and flowers; he also worked  
14 on the restoration of many downtown buildings by creating the  
15 Batavia Downtowners, an organization set up by himself and  
16 other downtown business owners in the 1970s to bring new life  
17 to the business section of Batavia; he restored five of his own  
18 19th century buildings along River Street, including an old  
19 dairy where he lived on the upper floor; his upper apartment  
20 became a gathering place for his annual canoe race parties on  
21 his large deck above the Fox River; and

22 WHEREAS, Philip Elfstrom was named Citizen of the Year by  
23 the Batavia Chamber of Commerce in 1982, and in 1985 helped to  
24 fund a scholarship to benefit students and further their dreams

1 of a college education; and

2 WHEREAS, Philip Elfstrom leaves a legacy benefitting  
3 everyone in Batavia and all of Kane County and will be greatly  
4 missed by many; and

5 WHEREAS, Philip Elfstrom was preceded in death by his  
6 parents; his brother-in-law, Frank McGuigan; his niece,  
7 Kathryne McGuigan Sheldon; his long time dear companion, Peg  
8 Bond; and many close friends; and

9 WHEREAS, Philip Elfstrom is survived by his loving sister,  
10 Kathryne Margaret McGuigan; his nephew, Frank "Sandy"  
11 McGuigan; his dear friends, Cathy Youssi Searl, Terry and Jan  
12 Bond, and Josh Bond, all of whom were like family; his long  
13 time secretary and good friend, Bobette Keasler; and his good  
14 friends Eldon Frydendall and Mayor Jeffery Schielke;  
15 therefore, be it

16 RESOLVED, BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE  
17 HUNDREDTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, that we  
18 mourn the passing of Philip Bader Elfstrom, and extend our  
19 sincere condolences to his family, friends, and all who knew  
20 and loved him; and be it further

21 RESOLVED, That a suitable copy of this resolution be

1 presented to the family of Philip Elfstrom as an expression of  
2 our deepest sympathy.