



HR0807

LRB100 20345 MST 35632 r

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HOUSE RESOLUTION

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WHEREAS, The members of the Illinois House of  
3 Representatives are saddened to learn of the death of Arthur  
4 Velasquez of North Aurora, who passed away on January 27, 2017;  
5 and

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WHEREAS, Arthur Velasquez was born in Lockhart, Texas on  
7 December 30, 1934 and attended segregated schools with other  
8 Latino students; and

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WHEREAS, As a young boy, Arthur Velasquez worked in his  
10 father's mechanic shop and learned that he was very skilled  
11 with his hands, which would play a role in his later life; and

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WHEREAS, Arthur Velasquez became involved in politics at a  
13 young age and served on committees with his then-Congressman  
14 Lyndon Johnson; and

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WHEREAS, In 1956, Arthur Velasquez met and married his  
16 wife, Alice; they were married for 41 years until her passing  
17 in 1997; and

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WHEREAS, Arthur Velasquez became a carpenter and joined the  
19 United Brotherhood of Carpenters (UBC); in 1966, he was  
20 appointed as an organizer for the UBC and later became a

1 representative for the International President of the UBC,  
2 where he worked in several states, Puerto Rico, and the  
3 Caribbean; and

4 WHEREAS, In 1973, Arthur Velasquez's increased  
5 responsibilities with the carpenters union allowed him to move  
6 his family to North Aurora; and

7 WHEREAS, Arthur Velasquez was a true community servant and  
8 served on the boards of many community organizations in Aurora,  
9 including the United Way, the Urban League, the Hispanic  
10 Heritage Advisory Board, Family Counseling Service, Study  
11 Circles, Friends of Seniors, and Centro Panamericano; and

12 WHEREAS, Arthur Velasquez was heavily involved in  
13 Democratic politics in the Aurora area, having been a mentor  
14 for many elected officials, whether they were congressmen or  
15 township trustees; and

16 WHEREAS, Arthur Velasquez was a powerful voice for  
17 organized labor in the Aurora area; and

18 WHEREAS, Arthur Velasquez was a passionate advocate for  
19 education; after growing up in segregated schools, he fought  
20 for the right of all students to receive a quality education  
21 and saw it as a great equalizer; and

1           WHEREAS, Arthur Velasquez served as president of League of  
2 United Latin American Citizens Council (LULAC) 5218 and the  
3 LULAC Council of the Aurora Foundation, where he raised more  
4 than \$200,000 for scholarships for local students; and

5           WHEREAS, The stories of Arthur Velasquez's generosity and  
6 kindness in the Aurora community are countless; and

7           WHEREAS, Arthur Velasquez was the proud father of Patty,  
8 Valarie, Art, April, Crystal and Timothy; grandfather to Dodi,  
9 Jeremy, Christopher, Marcus, Jackie, Mike, Jeff, Amber,  
10 Autumn, Anthony, Tyler, and Sean; and great-grandfather to  
11 Veronica, Victoria, Mya, Liam, Camden, Saylor, Jack, Will,  
12 Brenna, and Jade; therefore, be it

13           RESOLVED, BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE  
14 HUNDREDTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, that we  
15 mourn the passing of Arthur Velasquez, and extend our sincere  
16 condolences to his family, friends, and all who knew and loved  
17 him; and be it further

18           RESOLVED, That a suitable copy of this resolution be  
19 presented to the family of Arthur Velasquez as an expression of  
20 our deepest sympathy.