



SR0368

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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 John Thomas Thompson Jr. of Danville, who passed away on September 18, 2016; and

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WHEREAS, John Thompson Jr. was born in Westville to John T. Sr. and Mae (Bubelis) Thompson on February 28, 1931; he graduated from Saint Mary's Grade School in 1946 and Georgetown High School in 1950, where he excelled in football and basketball, setting records in both sports; he served in the United States Navy for four years during the Korean War and married Josephine "Jo Ann" Ann Sakotnik in Westville on October 22, 1955; and

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WHEREAS, John Thompson Jr. worked for the Norfolk & Western Railroad (formerly the Wabash Railroad) as a switchman, retiring in 1981 after 26 years; he also managed the Shields Restaurant in Hegeler/Home Gardens and worked as a part-time constable for Vermilion County; and

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WHEREAS, John Thompson Jr. was a life-member of Saint Mary's Catholic Church in Westville and a life-member of the United Transportation Union; he was a member of the Knights of Columbus, Westville American Legion Post #51 for 61 years, and the 40 & 8 for 60 years; he was a past member of the Moose, the

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1 Navy Club, and the Elks; and

2 WHEREAS, John Thompson Jr. was a lifelong member of the
3 Democratic Party; he was a precinct committeeman for 55 years,
4 and a Vermilion County Democrat Chairman for 10 years; he
5 received several awards and accolades for his service to the
6 Democratic Party; during his term as Chairman, he was
7 instrumental in electing county board members to change the
8 board from Republican to Democrat; and

9 WHEREAS, John Thompson Jr. loved sports and cheering for
10 the St. Louis Cardinals; in his earlier years, he played and
11 managed Twilight League Ball; he coached American Legion Youth
12 Baseball; he enjoyed golf, gardening, and most of all spending
13 time with his children, grandchildren, and
14 great-grandchildren; and

15 WHEREAS, John Thompson Jr. participated in the Georgetown
16 Fair, entering rabbits as a youngster and flowers as an adult;
17 he supported Saint Mary's Catholic Church Labor Day weekend
18 festivities, where he enjoyed selling raffle tickets; he
19 volunteered delivering Meals on Wheels through CRIS Senior
20 Services for many years and catered special occasions with his
21 wife and family; and

22 WHEREAS, John Thompson Jr. was preceded in death by his

1 parents and his sister, JoAnn Shapuras; and

2 WHEREAS, John Thompson Jr. is survived by his wife of over
3 60 years, Jo Ann; his daughters, Deborah (Timothy) Strako, and
4 Christina (Robert) Dietzen; his grandchildren, Amanda Widell
5 (Dylan McKenzie), Matthew (Eryca) Strako, Joslyn Dietzen, and
6 Aleksas Dietzen; his great-grandchildren, Abigail Widell,
7 Grady Widell, and Esther Strako; his step-great-grandchild,
8 Emani Nelson; his brothers, Carl Thompson (Pat Stitt), Faustyn
9 (Shirley) Thompson, and Iyrann (Hazel) Thompson; his sister,
10 Adry Ann Swaney; his brother-in-law, William Sakotnik; his
11 special niece, DiAnn Cottle; and many other nieces, nephews,
12 relatives, and friends; therefore, be it

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

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