



SR1395

LRB100 19020 MST 34274 r

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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 Walter Edward Pilditch, who passed away on December 24, 2017; and

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WHEREAS, Walter Pilditch was born in Chicago to Howard and Edith Pilditch on April 30, 1931; he was baptized at Beverly's St. Paul's Bible Church, where he remained a member all his life; he joined St. Paul's Boy Scout Troop 608 in 1942, eventually earning Scouting's highest rank of Eagle Scout and serving as Scoutmaster and the Troop's Treasurer; and

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WHEREAS, Walter Pilditch attended Vanderpoel Elementary School and graduated from Morgan Park High School, where he earned membership in the Tau Epsilon Scholastic Society, served as a member of the student administration, and was inducted into the National Honor Society; he attended Wilson Junior College and the Chicago Teachers' College, earning his degree in education, and eventually earning a master's degree from Northwestern University and a doctorate from Nova Southeastern University; and

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WHEREAS, Walter Pilditch began teaching at Felsenthal Elementary School when he was drafted during the Korean War; he served in the United States Army Signal Corps, earning the rank

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1 of Sergeant; he returned to Felsenthal Elementary School and
2 continued his education, joining the University of Chicago's
3 first administrative internship program; and

4 WHEREAS, Walter Pilditch married Joyce Gach, a widow with
5 two young children, in 1966, and together they welcomed another
6 son; and

7 WHEREAS, Walter Pilditch passed the principal's
8 examination in 1968, serving first at Jungman Elementary School
9 for 10 years and then at his alma mater, Morgan Park High
10 School, where he employed his policy of "Management by Walking
11 Around" and utilized innovative automated "wake up calls" to
12 reduce tardiness and truancy; and

13 WHEREAS, Walter Pilditch moved to Curie High School and
14 then served the district in the Office of Accountability; and

15 WHEREAS, Walter Pilditch was twice elected to the Chicago
16 Teachers' Pension Fund (CTPF) Board of Trustees, serving from
17 1995 until 2001; he was also a member and president of the
18 Chicago Principals and Administrators Association; and

19 WHEREAS, Walter Pilditch retired from CPS in 2001 after 45
20 years of service; he was elected to the CTPF Board of Trustees
21 as a pensioner representative in 2003 and re-elected seven more

1 times, most recently in November of 2017; he served in many
2 leadership roles including vice president and financial
3 Secretary and as chairman of the Pension Law and Rules, Finance
4 and Audit, and Claims and Service Credits committees; he was
5 also a member of almost every committee; and

6 WHEREAS, Walter Pilditch contributed to numerous
7 organizations, serving on the executive committee for the
8 Beverly Area Planning Association, on the Chicago Retired
9 Teachers Aid Fund, as a Chicago Science Fair Judge, and as a
10 Local School Council Community Representative; he was involved
11 with several groups including the Archer Road Kiwanis
12 Organization, the Beverly Improvement Association, the Beverly
13 Ridge Lions Club, and the Retired Teachers Association of
14 Chicago (RTAC); and

15 WHEREAS, Walter Pilditch has been recognized with
16 distinguished service awards from the Aquin Guild and the
17 Assistant Principals Association; he also received the
18 Armstrong Award from RTAC and Scouting's highest recognition,
19 the Silver Beaver Award; therefore, be it

20 RESOLVED, BY THE SENATE OF THE ONE HUNDREDTH GENERAL
21 ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, that we mourn the passing of
22 Walter Pilditch, and extend our sincere condolences to his
23 family, friends, and all who knew and loved him; and be it

1 further

2 RESOLVED, That a suitable copy of this resolution be
3 presented to the family of Walter Pilditch as an expression of
4 our deepest sympathy.