



SR2243

LRB100 24392 MST 43727 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 former Illinois State Senator Thomas Lee "Tom" Johnson of West Chicago, who passed away on December 3, 2018; and

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WHEREAS, Sen. Johnson was born in Oakland, California to Wallace and Raechel (Oslund) Johnson on April 30, 1945; he graduated from Oak Lawn Community High School in 1963 and served in the U.S. Army from 1966 to 1968, which included a tour of duty in Vietnam from 1967 to 1968; he received his Bachelor of Arts in Political Science from the University of Michigan in 1970 and a Juris Doctor from the DePaul University College of Law in 1974; and

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WHEREAS, Sen. Johnson joined the DuPage County State's Attorney's Office as Assistant State's Attorney, where he became chief of the White Collar Crime Division; in 1979, he co-founded a private practice in Wheaton, Johnson & Westra; and

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WHEREAS, Sen. Johnson was elected to the Illinois House of Representatives in 1993, and served the 50th District until 2003; he chaired the Judiciary Committee and was co-chairman of the Illinois Prison Reform Committee; from 2011 to 2013, he represented the 48th District as a Illinois State Senator; he

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1 was an effective legislator, known for consistently and  
2 respectfully reaching across the aisle to find common ground;  
3 he supported the sanctity of life, the family, and the dignity  
4 of every person; he was a tireless advocate for the  
5 incarcerated and former inmates; he was a vocal proponent of  
6 legislation which abolished the death penalty in Illinois;  
7 after elective office, he was appointed by the governor to the  
8 Illinois Prisoner Review Board, where he served for 14 years;  
9 and

10 WHEREAS, Sen. Johnson served on the boards of the  
11 Missionary Furlough Homes Foundation, the Greater Europe  
12 Mission, the Illinois Juvenile Justice Initiative, Wheaton  
13 Youth Outreach, and the advisory board of Illinois Citizens for  
14 Life; he and his wife, Ginger, welcomed refugees from Ukraine,  
15 Iraq, and Hurricane Katrina into their home, often for years at  
16 a time; and

17 WHEREAS, Sen. Johnson enjoyed fishing with his three sons  
18 in their backyard along the DuPage River, tooling around his  
19 barn workshop, and tending to a menagerie of horses, chickens,  
20 geese, and goats; on Saturdays, he could often be found golfing  
21 with his sons and friends; for the last 11 summers, Tom and  
22 Ginger ran Camp We-Go G-G, a week-long adventure for their  
23 grandchildren at their home with no parents allowed; and

1           WHEREAS, Sen. Johnson was preceded in death by his parents  
2 and his sister, Elizabeth (Betty) Rae Johnson; and

3           WHEREAS, Sen. Johnson is survived by his wife of over 50  
4 years, Virginia "Ginger" Van Der Molen Johnson; his sons and  
5 their spouses, Soren and Ever (Horan) Johnson and their  
6 children, Ever, Owen, Berend, Virginia, and Charlie; Derek  
7 Johnson and Carolyn Hutchinson and their children, Vivian and  
8 Anders; and Kirk and Marie-Josée (Cantin) Johnson and their  
9 children, August and Isidora; his brothers and their spouses,  
10 David and Marianne (Hess) Johnson and Paul and Pat (Joslyn)  
11 Johnson; 19 nieces and nephews; and 30 great-nieces and  
12 nephews; 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 former Illinois State Senator Thomas Lee "Tom" Johnson and  
16 extend our sincere condolences to his family, friends, and all  
17 who knew and loved him; and be it further

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