



SR2256

LRB100 24399 ALS 43745 r

1

SENATE RESOLUTION

2

WHEREAS, The members of the Illinois Senate are saddened to learn of the death of Paul Luty Obis Jr., who passed away on June 25, 2018 at the age of 66; and

3

4

5

WHEREAS, Paul Obis was born to Elizabeth "Betty" and Paul Luty Obis Sr., a pharmacist, on August 13, 1951; his parents owned and operated pharmacies together, and he grew up in Melrose Park; he attended Proviso East High School in Maywood and then the University of Illinois at Chicago; during college, he worked in a kitchen, and one day a can of beans fell from a shelf and hit him on the head; he woke up in a hospital under the care of a male nurse and was inspired to pursue a nursing career; later, while eating at a Burger King on Broadway in Chicago, he was inspired to become a vegetarian; after his epiphany, he left without finishing his burger; and

6

7

8

9

10

11

12

13

14

15

16

WHEREAS, While studying and working, Paul Obis founded a short-lived political newsletter called Truth and also submitted several freelance articles for other publications; when he was unsuccessful in finding someone to publish his articulated title, "Being a Vegetarian is Never Having to Say You're Sorry - to a Cow," he set out to launch his own publication; he founded the Vegetarian Times in 1974, a newsletter that he hand-delivered on his bicycle before it grew

17

18

19

20

21

22

23

1 into an influential magazine with a readership of approximately
2 1.7 million; for many years, the magazine was housed in Oak
3 Park; and

4 WHEREAS, In the Vegetarian Times, Paul Obis featured cover
5 stories about famous vegetarians, including Michael Jackson,
6 Annie Lennox, Madonna, Linda McCartney, Cassandra "Elvira"
7 Peterson, River Phoenix, Richard Simmons, and Dr. Henry
8 Heimlich, the inventor of the Heimlich maneuver; he befriended
9 another famous vegetarian, Fred "Mister" Rogers, who at one
10 point was a major investor in the magazine; Yoko Ono and John
11 Lennon were subscribers; and

12 WHEREAS, Paul Obis raised six sons with his first wife,
13 Mariclaire Barrett, who also served as the food editor and book
14 reviewer for the Vegetarian Times; while their children were
15 raised on a mostly vegetarian diet, they were allowed to decide
16 their own dietary lifestyles as they grew up; and

17 WHEREAS, Paul Obis sold his magazine in 1992 and concluded
18 that vegetarianism could live without him; he said, "I've come
19 to understand that it's so much bigger than whatever I eat,"
20 and, after experiencing a change of heart while attending the
21 Taste of Chicago with his sons, he returned to occasionally
22 eating meat; his magazine's legacy lives on as an online source
23 for the vegetarian community; and

1 WHEREAS, Paul Obis met his second wife, Janeen, in 2012,
2 and they married at the Arts Club of Chicago in 2014; the
3 couple initially moved to Oak Park, but they later settled in
4 Los Angeles, California; Janeen said she was attracted to
5 Paul's kindness, empathy, and spontaneity and remembered an
6 instance when he bought \$400 worth of groceries for a family in
7 need; and

8 WHEREAS, Paul Obis is remembered as an innovative,
9 creative, brilliant, eccentric, sweet, and gentle soul, as well
10 as "a provider and force for humanity"; he loved the nooks and
11 crannies of Chicago and introduced his children to "ethnic
12 grocery stores, charming barber shops, and off-the-beaten-path
13 oddities"; and

14 WHEREAS, Paul Obis was preceded in death by his first wife,
15 Mariclaire, and his parents, whom he nursed into old age; and

16 WHEREAS, Paul Obis is survived by his second wife, Janeen;
17 his sons, Nick (Jess), Quentin (Maryam), Paul W., Kevin (Beth),
18 Timothy (Anastasia), and Gregory, to whom he passed on his
19 legacy of "making the world a better place"; and his grandson;
20 therefore, be it

21 RESOLVED, BY THE SENATE OF THE ONE HUNDREDTH GENERAL

1 ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, that we mourn the passing of
2 Paul Luty Obis Jr. and extend our sincere condolences to his
3 family, friends, and all who knew and loved him; and be it
4 further

5 RESOLVED, That a suitable copy of this resolution be
6 presented to the family of Paul Obis as an expression of our
7 deepest sympathy.