



SR2291

LRB100 24430 ALS 43766 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 Lionel J. Gindorf, who passed away on December 5, 2018 at the age of 94; and

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WHEREAS, Lionel Gindorf was born on August 23, 1924 and grew up on the Near West Side and near Midway Airport during the Great Depression; at six foot three, he was known to most as "Tiny" and lived an extraordinary life; and

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WHEREAS, During World War II, Lionel Gindorf serviced B-16 bombers on the island of Guam in the Pacific; after the war, he returned to Chicago and began his career as a building engineer downtown; he joined Local 399 of the International Union of Operating Engineers (IUOE) in 1946; and

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WHEREAS, Lionel Gindorf quickly rose through the ranks at Local 399 and earned a reputation as a skilled negotiator and "someone to go to for advice you could count on or if you wanted to get a foot in the door"; In 1956, he became a member of the local's executive board and business agent; he was named financial secretary and assistant to the business manager in 1977; in 1980, he was elected business manager; and

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WHEREAS, During his tenure at Local 399, Lionel Gindorf

1 oversaw dramatic changes in the craft of operating engineer; in
2 1960, drastic revisions were made to the local's training
3 program to accommodate advancements in technology; thus,
4 computer training was initiated and later tied in with a
5 two-year program, which was developed by the IUOE and a Chicago
6 community college and open to all incoming union members; and

7 WHEREAS, In 1994, Lionel Gindorf retired from Local 399,
8 and in his speech, he expressed that for 48 years he "lived and
9 breathed" the union; according to his daughter, "There are no
10 words to capture his real accomplishment and the extent of his
11 influence, which created livelihoods and guaranteed success
12 for generations of families"; she further noted that "he gave a
13 million favors and never asked for one in return, as he
14 considered it his job to take care of people"; and

15 WHEREAS, Lionel Gindorf was preceded in death by his wife
16 of 68 years, Anne Gindorf; and

17 WHEREAS, Lionel Gindorf is survived by his children, Merry
18 (the late Phil) Nicholson and Jeffrey (Andrea) Gindorf; his
19 grandchildren, Christine Nicholson, John Nicholson, Joie
20 Gindorf, and Jamie Gindorf; his many nieces and nephews; and
21 the numerous people he mentored; therefore, be it

22 RESOLVED, BY THE SENATE OF THE ONE HUNDREDTH GENERAL

1 ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, that we mourn the passing of
2 Lionel J. Gindorf 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 Lionel Gindorf as an expression of
7 our deepest sympathy.