



SR0805

LRB101 15261 MST 64558 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 Steven F. "Steve" Graceffa of Roscoe, who passed away on October 31, 2019; and

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WHEREAS, Steve Graceffa was born in Rockford to Benjamin and Delores (Eastman) Graceffa on May 31, 1951; he graduated from Boylan Catholic High School in 1969 and married Linda Heisler on May 23, 1970; and

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WHEREAS, Steve Graceffa began work in 1970 as a truck driver; driving a brand new truck, he promptly got stuck in sludge, was pulled out, and tore off the front bumper in the process, thus began his career at Rock River Water Reclamation District; and

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WHEREAS, As the district grew, Steve Graceffa's responsibilities grew; he became Supervisor of the Supporting Services Department in 1976, Supporting Services Manager in 1985, and District Director in 2005; and

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WHEREAS, Steve Graceffa was instrumental in moving the district from a small collection system with regional trucks to a collection system estimated to be the second largest in the State; this was accomplished with the assimilation of Loves

1 Park, Cherry Valley, Roscoe, the City of Rockford, and the
2 Village of Winnebago; the collection system now includes over
3 1,128 miles of pipe; and

4 WHEREAS, Steve Graceffa established a five-year cleaning
5 plan for the district, which has been in place for over 35
6 years and is now used by many communities throughout the United
7 States as the standard in collection system management; and

8 WHEREAS, Steve Graceffa moved the district through the
9 modernization of cleaning equipment, including the addition of
10 computers for use in collecting data, televising, and
11 inspection of the collection system; and

12 WHEREAS, Steve Graceffa was always first in implementing
13 new technologies in the field of rehabilitation of the
14 collection system; this included the lining of sewer mains and
15 services, manhole rehabilitation, and a number of other
16 technologies and methods, all in the pursuit of improving the
17 collection system and reducing costs to the district's users;
18 and

19 WHEREAS, Steve Graceffa retired as a district director; he
20 was honored by having the new administration building named
21 after him in 2017; he served as the vice president of the
22 J.U.L.I.E. board, and, after retirement, worked for Paper

1 Recovery as a consultant; he was known for his incredible work
2 ethic; and

3 WHEREAS, Steve Graceffa dedicated his 46-year career to
4 demonstrating an exemplary sense of duty to improve his
5 community by protecting public health and the environment
6 through innovative and cost-effective wastewater management;
7 and

8 WHEREAS, Steve Graceffa's community involvement and
9 contributions included serving as president of IAWA and as a
10 16-year JULIE Board member and participation in RAEDC
11 initiatives and Keep Northern Illinois Beautiful; and

12 WHEREAS, Steve Graceffa spent years with the Rockford
13 Speedway and the Derry family; he enjoyed boating, time by the
14 pool, traveling, his cherished Mustang, and his four-legged
15 fury buddy Nicky; most of all, he loved his family and will be
16 forever remembered as a great husband, dad, papa, son, uncle,
17 cousin, and friend; and

18 WHEREAS, Steve Graceffa was preceded in death by his
19 mother, Delores Graceffa; his mother-in-law and father-in-law,
20 Donald and Patricia Heisler; his sister-in-law, Susan (Mike)
21 Welter; his brother-in-law, James Heisler; and his best friend,
22 Brian Wahl; and

1 WHEREAS, Steve Graceffa is survived by his wife, Linda; his
2 sons, Scott (Amy) and Brian (Jackie) Graceffa; his
3 grandchildren, Kayla (Tom) Zeimet, Matt Best, Baily Graceffa,
4 Hannah Graceffa, and Braden Graceffa; his father, Ben Graceffa;
5 his siblings, Ben (Doris) Graceffa, Dan (Pat) Graceffa, Phillip
6 (Beth) Graceffa, Robert (JoMarie) Graceffa, Jeff (Sherry)
7 Graceffa, and Sue (Dan) Habben; his in-laws, Michael (Doreen)
8 Heisler, Steven (Sherry) Heisler, David (Mary) Heisler, and
9 Debra McGuire; his goddaughters, Jennifer Betts and Justine
10 Graceffa; his aunt, Jackie Fenelon; his longtime friends,
11 Theresa Wahl, Mark and Denise VanVleck, and Frank Graceffa; and
12 numerous nephews, nieces, cousins, and friends; therefore, be
13 it

14 RESOLVED, BY THE SENATE OF THE ONE HUNDRED FIRST GENERAL
15 ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, that we mourn the passing of
16 Steven F. "Steve" Graceffa and extend our sincere condolences
17 to his family, friends, and all who knew and loved him; and be
18 it further

19 RESOLVED, That a suitable copy of this resolution be
20 presented to the family of Steve Graceffa as an expression of
21 our deepest sympathy.