



SR1279

LRB101 21814 ECR 72768 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 William "Bill" R. Browning, who passed away on July 5, 2020; and

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WHEREAS, Bill Browning was born to Ray James and Verda Browning in Christopher on May 26, 1930; he graduated from Christopher Community High School in 1948; he received his bachelor's degree from Southern Illinois University Carbondale in 1952, majoring in English and Speech, and received his master's degree from the George Peabody College of Vanderbilt University in Nashville in 1958, majoring in Educational Administration; he married Catherine Venegoni at the First Christian Church in Christopher on January 13, 1951; he also served in the U.S. Army as a Battalion Sergeant Major during the Korean War; and

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WHEREAS, In 1954, Bill Browning worked as a classroom teacher for English and Speech and as a coach for the Staunton Community High School district; in 1958, he moved to Springfield where he continued as a teacher and coach at Lanphier High School; in 1965, he was appointed co-director of the Community School Programs for the Springfield school district; from 1967 through 1974, he worked for the Community Development Division of the Illinois Department of Business and

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1 Economic Development; in 1974, he moved to the Illinois
2 Department of Personnel's Bureau of Inter-governmental and
3 Manpower Affairs where he was appointed Manager of the Division
4 of Employee Development; he closed his career as a grants
5 administrator for the State Board of Education, where he
6 assisted with training adult employees; after 38 years of
7 community service, he retired in 1989; and

8 WHEREAS, Bill Browning was a lifetime member of the First
9 Christian Church (FCC) and served as a deacon and elder at FCC
10 in Springfield; he was a member of the American Legion Post #32
11 and the Illinois Education Association; he was a member, board
12 member, and honorary lifetime member of the Great Lakes Areas
13 Development Council; he served as a member of the Advisory
14 Board for the Basic Industrial Development Course at the
15 University of Illinois; he authored numerous articles and
16 delivered seminars and workshops; he also shared his love of
17 sports by managing Khoury league baseball teams for several
18 years during the summer months; and

19 WHEREAS, Bill Browning loved golf so much that he and his
20 wife lived on a golf course in Mesa, Arizona for six months out
21 of the year; when he wasn't golfing, he was researching his
22 genealogy; he also liked crossword puzzles, reading, and all
23 sports, particularly the Saint Louis Cardinals; and

1 WHEREAS, Bill Browning was preceded in death by his
2 parents, Ray James and Verda Browning; his father-in-law, Bert
3 Venegoni; his mother-in-law, Tina Venegoni; his sister-in-law,
4 Jo Byars; and his brothers-in-law, Glenn Byars and Bert
5 Venegoni Jr; and

6 WHEREAS, Bill Browning is survived by his wife, Catherine;
7 his daughter, Kari R. Tomei (Bruce); his son, William R.
8 Browning Jr. (Georgina); his grandchildren, Jenna, Kevin, and
9 Marissa Jenkins (Tomei) and Kierra and Tianna Browning; his
10 sister-in-law, Gracie Venegoni; and his several nieces,
11 nephews, and cousins; therefore, be it

12 RESOLVED, BY THE SENATE OF THE ONE HUNDRED FIRST GENERAL
13 ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, that we mourn the passing of
14 William "Bill" R. Browning and extend our sincere condolences
15 to his family, friends, and all who knew and loved him; and be
16 it further

17 RESOLVED, That a suitable copy of this resolution be
18 presented to the family of Bill Browning as an expression of
19 our deepest sympathy.