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HOUSE RESOLUTION

2 WHEREAS, The members of the Illinois House of
3 Representatives are saddened to learn of the death of
4 Frederick Walton "Fred" Allen of Peoria, who passed away on
5 January 24, 2021; and

6 WHEREAS, Fred Allen was born to Frederick William Allen
7 and Laura Josephine (Johnson) Allen in Ripon, Wisconsin on
8 June 10, 1923; he graduated from Ripon High School in 1941; he
9 attended Ripon College until he voluntarily enlisted in the
10 U.S. Army Air Force on December 7, 1942, where he learned to
11 fly a B-29 bomber, received his pilot's license at Moody Field
12 in Valdosta, Georgia on August 5, 1944, and completed his
13 training as a second lieutenant; following his military
14 service, he signed as a contract pitcher with the Papermakers
15 of Appleton, Wisconsin, a minor league affiliate of the
16 Cleveland Indians; he attended law school at Northwestern
17 University; he was admitted to the Illinois State Bar in 1949;
18 he married Tilley Derges at the First Methodist Church of
19 Peoria on July 26, 1952, and she preceded him in death on
20 October 20, 2018; and

21 WHEREAS, Fred Allen had a long and distinguished career as
22 a plaintiff's attorney; he first worked at the law firm of
23 Louis Knobloch in Peoria; he became the first downstate

1 Illinois lawyer to win a \$1 million award for a client after a
2 jury verdict against the Ford Motor Company in 1974, which
3 earned him a membership in the Inner Circle of Advocates, an
4 elite national group limited to plaintiff's attorneys who had
5 won seven figure awards; he built his own law firm as a
6 self-made businessman; he personally funded each case, hired
7 experts, and regularly made time for pro bono legal work; he
8 had a reputation for taking cases to trial by jury instead of
9 settling for less, always seeking the best result for his
10 clients; he earned the admiration of other attorneys for his
11 work ethic and was known to be humble, generous, and exact in
12 his actions; and

13 WHEREAS, Fred Allen was very active in many state,
14 national, and international legal organizations; he was a
15 fellow of the American College of Trial Lawyers, the
16 International Society of Barristers, the International Academy
17 of Trial Lawyers, and the Illinois Bar Foundation; he was a
18 member of the Board of Governors of the Association of Trial
19 Lawyers of America; he also played prominent roles in many
20 Illinois legal groups, including as president of the Illinois
21 Trial Lawyers Association from 1974 to 1975, the Peoria County
22 Bar Association from 1979 to 1980, and the Society of Trial
23 Lawyers of Illinois from 1983 to 1984; he was active in the
24 Illinois State Bar Association for more than 50 years; and

1 WHEREAS, Fred Allen remained a loyal member of the
2 Democratic Party his entire life; he ran unsuccessfully for
3 Congress against Bob Michel in 1956; he served as the 18th
4 Congressional District State Central Committeeman for eight
5 years, and he met several notable individuals, including
6 President John F. Kennedy and President Lyndon Johnson; and

7 WHEREAS, Fred Allen belonged to a number of organizations,
8 including the American Legion, the First United Methodist
9 Church of Peoria, the Union League Club of Chicago, the
10 Springs Country Club of Rancho Mirage, California, the Old
11 Baldy Club of Saratoga, Wyoming, and Mascoutin Golf Club of
12 Berlin, Wisconsin; he was a member of the Elks Club for more
13 than 70 years; he served as president of the Country Club of
14 Peoria; and

15 WHEREAS, Fred Allen was known for his love and devotion to
16 his wife; alongside her, he enjoyed traveling the world,
17 attending professional meetings, touring sites, golfing, and
18 making lifelong friends; he remained a devoted baseball fan,
19 especially supporting the Chicago Cubs; he loved golf and had
20 hundreds of friendships at country clubs across the U.S.; and

21 WHEREAS, Fred Allen enjoyed spending time with his
22 daughters, his grandchildren, his great-grandchildren, and
23 their families; his love and pride for them was boundless; he

1 will be remembered for being a confident, self-made man who
2 answered others with honesty; and

3 WHEREAS, Fred Allen was preceded in death by his parents;
4 his wife of 66 years, Tilley (Derges) Allen; his daughter,
5 Laura Allen Curfman; and his sister, Jane (Allen) Waters; and

6 WHEREAS, At the time of his passing, Fred Allen was
7 survived by his daughters, Diane (Doug) Allen Cullinan
8 Oberhelman and Rita Allen Graves; his grandchildren, Kathleen
9 Cullinan (Tyson) Brill, Maureen Cullinan (Christopher)
10 Bennett, Alison Cullinan (Matt) Unkovich, Allen (Laura)
11 Cullinan, Crystal Curfman (Coby) Shaw, Colette Curfman, and
12 Whitney Graves; and his 13 great-grandchildren with another
13 expected shortly; therefore, be it

14 RESOLVED, BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE
15 HUNDRED SECOND GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, that
16 we mourn the passing of Frederick Walton "Fred" Allen and
17 extend our sincere condolences to his family, friends, and all
18 who knew and loved him; and be it further

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