



HR0712

LRB102 26589 LAW 37302 r

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HOUSE RESOLUTION

2 WHEREAS, The State of Illinois and its citizens are
3 grateful for the contributions Richard Duchossois made through
4 his service to the nation, business acumen, philanthropy, and
5 dedication to the sport of horse racing; and

6 WHEREAS, Richard Duchossois was born to Ernestine and
7 Alphonse Duchossois in Chicago on October 7, 1921, was raised
8 in Beverly, and attended the Morgan Park Military Academy and
9 the Washington and Lee University; and

10 WHEREAS, Richard Duchossois was only 20 years old when he
11 was called into service in the U.S. Army during World War II,
12 where he served as a commander of a Tank Destroyer Company
13 during five European campaigns, including the landing at Utah
14 Beach in Normandy and leading a battalion in the famed Battle
15 of the Bulge; and

16 WHEREAS, Richard Duchossois was awarded the Purple Heart
17 and two Bronze Stars for his leadership, service, courage, and
18 sacrifice; and

19 WHEREAS, Richard Duchossois married Beverly Thrall in
20 1943, and they had four children, Craig, Dayle, Bruce, and
21 Kimberly; and

1 WHEREAS, Richard Duchossois was invited to join the Thrall
2 Car Manufacturing Company and grew the company from 35
3 employees to over 3,000 employees, parlaying this business
4 success into a sprawling business empire known as Duchossois
5 Industries that spanned several industries and employed
6 thousands of Americans; and

7 WHEREAS, Richard Duchossois made his first substantial
8 philanthropic gift in response to the care and treatment his
9 beloved wife Beverly was receiving before her passing in 1980;
10 his family became one of the State's most philanthropic
11 families through the Duchossois Family Foundation, whose
12 grants, donations and contributions have transformed
13 communities, supported medical and scientific advancements,
14 raised the quality of life for individuals and families in
15 need, and supported educational attainment for the next
16 generation; and

17 WHEREAS, Richard Duchossois assumed ownership of the
18 Arlington Park racetrack in Arlington Heights in 1983, and
19 through his signature leadership, management, and
20 fearlessness, he rallied the track to host its signature
21 event, the Arlington Million, just days after a devastating
22 electrical fire that instantly became a legendary and historic
23 racing event known as the Miracle Million; and

1 WHEREAS, Richard Duchossois oversaw the merger of
2 Arlington Park with Churchill Downs Incorporated in 2000 as
3 part of his dedication, love, and passion for elevating the
4 sport of horse racing and to ensure its economic vitality
5 during a period of change and was later inducted into the
6 National Museum of Racing and Hall of Fame for his endless
7 contributions to the sport; and

8 WHEREAS, Richard Duchossois never forgot the courage and
9 sacrifice of those he served with in World War II and became a
10 trustee of the National World War II Museum in New Orleans to
11 ensure that later generations understood the gifts of freedom
12 and liberty; and

13 WHEREAS, Richard Duchossois married Mary Judith McKeage
14 Duchossois in 2000, and she supported and championed his
15 continued business and philanthropic efforts, including his
16 endless entrepreneurialism that continued throughout all his
17 days, as well as his love of his ever-expanding family; and

18 WHEREAS, Richard Duchossois was guided by an enormous
19 sense of humility, generosity, and service to others; and

20 WHEREAS, Richard Duchossois was affectionately known as
21 "Mr. D" to all those with whom he interacted; and

1 WHEREAS, In his century of living, Richard Duchossois
2 never wasted a day, and he made a remarkable difference in the
3 world through his acclaimed military service, business acumen,
4 status as a horse racing icon, and philanthropy; and

5 WHEREAS, Richard Duchossois was most proud of his duties
6 as a mentor, friend, husband, father, uncle, grandfather, and
7 great-grandfather; and

8 WHEREAS, Richard Duchossois will be remembered for his
9 leadership, humility, generosity, tenacity, patriotism,
10 philanthropy, and kindness to others; and

11 WHEREAS, Richard Duchossois passed away on January 28,
12 2022 at the age of 100 after a life well lived; and

13 WHEREAS, Richard Duchossois was preceded in death by his
14 first wife, Beverly, and their beloved son, R. Bruce
15 Duchossois; and

16 WHEREAS, Richard Duchossois is survived by his wife, Mary
17 Judith McKeage Duchossois; his son, Craig J. (Janet)
18 Duchossois; his daughter, Dayle Duchossois (Ed) Fortino; his
19 daughter, Kimberly Duchossois; his stepsons, Steve (Sherrie)
20 Marchi and Paul (Judy) Marchi; his seven grandchildren and

1 spouses; his two step-grandchildren; and his 14
2 great-grandchildren; therefore, be it

3 RESOLVED, BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE
4 HUNDRED SECOND GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, that
5 we mourn the passing of Richard Duchossois, commend his
6 service to the nation, State, and the sport of horse racing,
7 and extend our sincere condolences to his family, friends, and
8 all who knew and loved him; and be it further

9 RESOLVED, That a suitable copy of this resolution be
10 presented to the family of Richard Duchossois as an expression
11 of our deepest sympathy.