



SR0703

LRB102 23556 LAW 32738 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 George A. "Deke" Fernandez, who passed away on December 24, 2021; and

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WHEREAS, Deke Fernandez was born in Springfield to Ansell "Andy" Fernandez and Loreta (Awbrey) Fernandez on June 27, 1955; he was raised in Loami; he graduated from New Berlin High School in 1973; he also graduated from Lincoln Land Community College; he married Catherine "Cathy" Talkington at St. Mary's Church in Farmersville on August 21, 1999; and

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WHEREAS, Deke Fernandez served as a sergeant for the Illinois Department of Corrections, where he retired after 21 years of service; and

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WHEREAS, Deke Fernandez loved bowling and riding Harleys; he was an avid St. Louis Cardinals fan; he was a drummer in central Illinois for many years, and he loved playing in the City Limits band most of all; alongside his wife, he enjoyed traveling and attended many Cardinals baseball games; and

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WHEREAS, Deke Fernandez was preceded in death by his parents and his brother, Ansell Wayne "Bud" Fernandez; and

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1 WHEREAS, Deke Fernandez is survived by his wife; his
2 daughter, Elizabeth Fernandez; his sons, Travis (fiancé,
3 Mariah Gatherall) Fernandez and Damion (Renee) Fernandez; his
4 stepson, Josh (companion, Julie Rowden) Witkowski; his
5 grandchildren, Paige, Izzy, Leo, and Killian; his
6 great-grandchild, J.J.; his sister, Lela Mae (Mike) Haesaert;
7 his special niece, Deborah Warden; his miniature Dachshund,
8 Bitzy; and his several nieces, nephews, and cousins;
9 therefore, be it

10 RESOLVED, BY THE SENATE OF THE ONE HUNDRED SECOND GENERAL
11 ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, that we mourn the passing of
12 George A. "Deke" Fernandez and extend our sincere condolences
13 to his family, friends, and all who knew and loved him; and be
14 it further

15 RESOLVED, That a suitable copy of this resolution be
16 presented to the family of Deke Fernandez as an expression of
17 our deepest sympathy.