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LRB102 26111 LAW 35613 r

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SENATE RESOLUTION

2 WHEREAS, The members of the Illinois Senate are saddened
3 to learn of the death of Richard L. Duchossois of Barrington
4 Hills, who passed away on January 28, 2022; and

5 WHEREAS, Richard Duchossois was born to Ernestine and
6 Alphonse Duchossois in Chicago on October 7, 1921; he was a
7 native of Chicago; he attended Morgan Park Military Academy
8 during his formative years; he attended Washington and Lee
9 University in Lexington, Virginia; he served in the U.S. Army
10 during World War II, where he was assigned to the 610th Tank
11 Destroyer Battalion and served as commander of a Tank
12 Destroyer Company throughout five European campaigns under
13 General George S. Patton; he survived a gunshot wound,
14 recovered, and returned to the front, leading his company
15 through famed operations such as The Battle of the Bulge; he
16 was awarded a Purple Heart, a Bronze Star, and the Order of St.
17 Maurice medallion; he received the Legion d'Honneur on the
18 70th anniversary of D-Day by the French government in
19 Normandy, France in 2014; he married Beverly Thrall in July
20 1943, and they had four children, Craig, Dayle, Bruce, and
21 Kimberly, and settled in Flossmoor; he later married Mary
22 Judith McKeage in 2000; and

23 WHEREAS, Upon his return home from the war, Richard

1 Duchossois joined his wife's family's railcar parts and repair
2 business, Thrall Car Manufacturing Company, in Chicago
3 Heights; he honed his intuitive business instincts while
4 there, relentlessly striving for growth and improvement; he
5 grew the company from 35 employees to 3,000 employees by the
6 time it was acquired by the Trinity Rail Group in 2001,
7 diversifying his company over the years with the purchase of
8 Chamberlain Manufacturing Group, broadcast outlets, Arlington
9 Park, and a number of other businesses; and

10 WHEREAS, Richard Duchossois was most associated with
11 Arlington Park, the thoroughbred racetrack located in
12 Arlington Heights; after an electrical fire destroyed the
13 entire facility in 1985, he galvanized his employees to hold
14 the famed Arlington Million race just days after the fire;
15 this feat became a horseracing legend known as the "Miracle
16 Million" and marked the first time a racetrack was ever
17 awarded racing's highest honor, the Eclipse Special Award; he
18 then championed the facility's rebuild, setting it apart from
19 other racetracks globally with its striking cantilevered roof,
20 world-class facilities, and international stakes races; during
21 his tenure in horseracing, he oversaw the merger of Arlington
22 Park with Churchill Downs Incorporated in 2000, brought the
23 2002 Breeders Cup to Arlington Park, owned one of the leading
24 breeding farms in Illinois, and actively worked to influence
25 and shape the racing industry and its legislation; he was

1 inducted into the National Museum of Racing and Hall of Fame in
2 2019; and

3 WHEREAS, Richard Duchossois made his first major
4 philanthropic gift to the University of Chicago Medical Center
5 in 1978 in response to the care and treatment his wife Beverly
6 was receiving before her passing in 1980; his gift supported
7 world-renowned experts in lymphoma, including Dr. John Ultmann
8 as the first director of the Cancer Research Center at the
9 University of Chicago; he established The Duchossois Family
10 Foundation soon after; he supported cancer research in
11 partnership with the University of Chicago and initiatives
12 such as Patient Navigation Services with the American Cancer
13 Society, among others; and

14 WHEREAS, Richard Duchossois served as a trustee of the
15 National WWII Museum in New Orleans, Louisiana, where he
16 participated in several oral history projects; and

17 WHEREAS, In his 100 years of life, Richard Duchossois left
18 an indelible impression on the world as a decorated war hero, a
19 renowned entrepreneur, a horseracing icon, a philanthropist, a
20 husband, a father, an uncle, a grandfather, a
21 great-grandfather, and a friend; he will be remembered for his
22 leadership, humility, generosity, perseverance, and dedication
23 to the service of others; and

1 WHEREAS, Richard Duchossois was preceded in death by first
2 wife, Beverly, and their son, R. Bruce Duchossois; and

3 WHEREAS, Richard Duchossois is survived by his wife, Mary
4 Judith (McKeage); his son, Craig J. Duchossois (Janet); his
5 daughters, Dayle Duchossois-Fortino (Ed) and Kimberly
6 Duchossois; his stepsons, Steve Marchi (Sherrie) and Paul
7 Marchi (Judy); his seven grandchildren and their spouses; his
8 two step-grandchildren; and his 14 great-grandchildren;
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 Richard L. Duchossois and extend our sincere condolences to
13 his family, friends, and all who knew and loved him; and be it
14 further

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