



SR0935

LRB102 26813 LAW 37812 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 Francis M. "Brink" Brinkmeyer of Rock Island, who passed away on March 14, 2022; and

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WHEREAS, Francis Brinkmeyer was born to Emil and Ida (Lehmeier) Brinkmeyer at the Brinkmeyer homestead in the Hubbard/Radcliff, Iowa area on August 14, 1919; he graduated from Hubbard High School in 1937, where he served as class president; he earned his Bachelor of Science in Agricultural Engineering in 1942 from what is now known as Iowa State University; he served in the U.S. Navy during World War II; he married Margaret "Peg" Kurtz on August 22, 1953; and

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WHEREAS, Francis Brinkmeyer had a lifelong passion for aviation; he learned to fly through the Civilian Pilot Training Program, and he first flew solo in June 1942; he trained as a U.S. Navy pilot at the Corpus Christi Naval Air Station in the fall of 1942 and received his Navy wings in August 1943; he was assigned to the Navy's Special Task Air Group, testing the first combat drones using radio control and TV monitors; he joined JM-13, a Navy utility squadron, as a patrol plane commander in November 1944; he ferried personnel, towed targets, and patrolled throughout the South Pacific while flying out of airfields in Guadalcanal and later Samar;

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1 he retired as a lieutenant commander from the U.S. Naval  
2 Reserve in 1965; and

3 WHEREAS, Francis Brinkmeyer worked as a product design  
4 engineer at Deere & Company for 36 years, retiring in 1982;  
5 collaborating with others, he is credited with four patents  
6 during his time at Deere and was most proud of the work related  
7 to the JD570 Motor Grader; alongside his wife, he owned and  
8 operated the Kwik-Kleen Laundromat in Rock Island for over 23  
9 years; he was proud of his long support and association with  
10 the HWH Corporation; and

11 WHEREAS, Francis Brinkmeyer was a 76-year member of First  
12 Congregational Church in Moline, where he taught Sunday school  
13 for many years; he and his wife loved hosting July 4th  
14 barbecues each year that culminated with his own fireworks  
15 display; more recently, with Peg in tow, he never missed his  
16 grandsons' sporting events and loved to brag about their  
17 accomplishments both on and off the field; and

18 WHEREAS, Francis Brinkmeyer was preceded in death by his  
19 brothers, Frederick, Orville, and Dennison; and

20 WHEREAS, Francis Brinkmeyer is survived by his wife of  
21 nearly 69 years, Margaret "Peg" (Kurtz) Brinkmeyer; his  
22 children, Jim (Joyce) Brinkmeyer, Kurt Brinkmeyer, Tom

1 Brinkmeyer, John Brinkmeyer, and Sara (David) Wells; his  
2 grandchildren, Justin Brinkmeyer, Shannon (Dan) Johnson, Eric  
3 (Rachel) Wells, Mark Wells, and Jack Wells; his two  
4 great-grandchildren; and his brother, Gary (Melva) Brinkmeyer;  
5 therefore, be it

6 RESOLVED, BY THE SENATE OF THE ONE HUNDRED SECOND GENERAL  
7 ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, that we mourn the passing of  
8 Francis M. "Brink" Brinkmeyer and extend our sincere  
9 condolences to his family, friends, and all who knew and loved  
10 him; and be it further

11 RESOLVED, That a suitable copy of this resolution be  
12 presented to the family of Francis Brinkmeyer as an expression  
13 of our deepest sympathy.