



SR0942

LRB102 24583 ECR 33817 r

1

SENATE RESOLUTION

2

WHEREAS, The members of the Illinois Senate are saddened to learn of the passing of Don Offermann, who passed away on December 26, 2021 at the age of 84; and

3

4

5

WHEREAS, Don Offermann was born on April 30, 1937 in Red Bud; and

6

7

WHEREAS, Don Offermann was raised by his loving parents, Viola (Binder) and the Reverend Theodore Offermann, along with his five brothers and sisters; and

8

9

10

WHEREAS, After graduating from high school in Missouri, Don Offermann was eager to see the "big city;" with just a pillow and a suitcase, he moved from Lockwood, Missouri to River Forest to attend Concordia Teacher's College, now Concordia University of Chicago; and

11

12

13

14

15

WHEREAS, During college, Don Offermann pursued a degree in English and met his wife, Verna; after graduating in 1958, he and Verna were married on June 18, 1960 and were blessed with four children; and

16

17

18

19

WHEREAS, Don Offermann began his career in education as an English teacher at Luther North High School in Chicago; in

20

1 1964, he joined the faculty of Oak Park River Forest (OPRF)
2 High School, where he would remain for a truly remarkable 25
3 years; and

4 WHEREAS, Don Offermann entered OPRF as an English teacher,
5 coaching soccer and track after school; as his career
6 advanced, he served as the English department assistant chair,
7 English department chair, assistant principal, assistant
8 superintendent, associate superintendent, and finally
9 superintendent/principal; and

10 WHEREAS, As a track coach, Don Offermann trained future
11 University of Illinois track star Rich Brooks; together, they
12 started the Oak and William (OW) Running Club whose members
13 became known as "OWies;" he remained good friends with Rich
14 for the rest of his life and continued to run with the "OWies"
15 three times a week into his eighties; his running friends
16 remember him as "a disciplined guy" who added a "camaraderie
17 of purpose" to the group; and

18 WHEREAS, Don Offermann was not one to stay idle; less than
19 two weeks after his "retirement" from OPRF in 1999, he started
20 his next career at Forest Park National Bank and Trust
21 Company, where he became senior vice president of business
22 development and dedicated himself to serving the community,
23 making personal connections with bank patrons, and investing

1 in the local businesses; and

2 WHEREAS, Don Offermann was instrumental in the development
3 of Madison Street in Forest Park; this development led to the
4 creation of the thriving retail, dining, and entertainment
5 district there today; during his career at Forest Park
6 National Bank, he, along with his business partner Art Jones,
7 created Windmill Industries through which they bought key but
8 underutilized properties in Forest Park's business district,
9 vetted potential new owners, did some minor renovations, and
10 then transferred ownership; this was all with the primary aim
11 of helping Forest Park become a better place to live, work, and
12 do business; and

13 WHEREAS, Don Offermann dedicated himself to helping those
14 around him; whether it was educating students at OPRF, running
15 with fellow "OWies," or helping to grow small businesses in
16 Forest Park, he was always giving back to his community; in
17 addition to serving fellow citizens in his educational and
18 banking careers, he volunteered on the boards of various local
19 organizations, served as president of the River Forest Tennis
20 Club, served as chairman of the Board of Directors for West
21 Suburban Hospital and Resurrection Hospital, served as a board
22 member of the Concordia University Foundation, and served as a
23 member of the Advisory Board for the Hemingway Foundation; and

1 WHEREAS, Don Offermann is survived by his loving wife of
2 61 years, Verna; his children, Daniel (Cynthia), Nancy (Doug
3 Shea), David (Gina), and Monika (Terrence Nash); and his
4 grandchildren, Graham, Lindsey, Colette, Kendra, Matthew,
5 Aaron, Paul, Griffin, Drew, and Jackson; 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 Don Offermann and extend our sincere condolences to his
9 family, friends, and all who knew and loved him; and be it
10 further

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