



SR1290

LRB102 29650 MST 41688 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 Steven Bela Szigethy, M.D. of Oblong, who passed away on January 5, 2020; and

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WHEREAS, Dr. Szigethy was born in Repcelak, Komitat Vas, Hungary on September 15, 1932; after completing four years of elementary school in Repcelak in 1942, he was accepted to the Faludi Ferenc Gymnasium, a preparatory school, in Szombathely, where he graduated in 1951; and

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WHEREAS, For family and political reasons, Dr. Szigethy could not participate in university studies and therefore took a position as a lathe operator trainee at the Wilhelm Pieck Rail Car and Engineering Factory in Gyor, Hungary; after nine months of apprenticeship, he took the craftsman test on August 1, 1952; after three months of work as a lathe operator, he was made a section leader; in March of 1953, he was conscripted into the Hungarian People's Army and served until April 1955; upon completion of his military service, he returned to the factory in Gyor, where he worked until November of 1956; and

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WHEREAS, Dr. Szigethy fled Hungary during the Hungarian Revolution/Uprising of 1956; he arrived in Canada in the Spring of 1957 and, despite only speaking German and

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1 Hungarian, was able to find a job working for the Canadian  
2 Pacific Railways in Saskatchewan; in his free time, he learned  
3 how to speak English by watching Hollywood films and by  
4 referring to an Introduction to English textbook; and

5 WHEREAS, After several years, Dr. Szigethy decided it was  
6 time to pursue his ultimate goal of becoming a medical doctor;  
7 he was accepted to study medicine at the University of Vienna  
8 in 1965; he worked hard and graduated with his degree in 1973;  
9 shortly after graduation, he moved from Austria to New York  
10 City, where he met his wife, Maria Rodriguez; she was also an  
11 immigrant, as she was born and raised in Colombia; and

12 WHEREAS, Dr. Szigethy and his family moved to Blue Island  
13 before moving to Oblong in 1979; he operated his own clinics in  
14 both Oblong and Newton and also had hospital rights at  
15 Crawford Memorial Hospital in Robinson; and

16 WHEREAS, Even after all the difficulties he endured after  
17 leaving Hungary, Dr. Szigethy was determined to pursue a  
18 medical career in the United States; he was not just an  
19 ordinary man but a true public servant; he tirelessly served  
20 the communities of Oblong and Newton for nearly four decades  
21 as a physician; patients often heard the words "no charge",  
22 especially if the patient could not afford services; and if a  
23 patient could not afford the ambulance ride to the hospital,

1 he might take them himself at "no charge"; he was a diplomate  
2 of the American Board of Family Practice; and

3 WHEREAS, Dr. Szigethy was a deeply caring and  
4 compassionate physician with a smile that warmed the hearts of  
5 all who knew him; he enjoyed listening to classical music,  
6 reading books, watching movies, woodworking, and traveling;  
7 and

8 WHEREAS, At the time of his death, Dr. Szigethy was  
9 survived by his wife, Maria; his children, Xavier, Ilona,  
10 Carolyn, and Stephen Alexander and their spouses, Melanie,  
11 Alex, Mike, and Kristen; he was also the proud grandfather of  
12 Xavier, Sofia, Delfina, John, Oliver, Natalie, Noah, Hannah,  
13 and Carly; therefore, be it

14 RESOLVED, BY THE SENATE OF THE ONE HUNDRED SECOND GENERAL  
15 ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, that we mourn the passing of  
16 Steven Bela Szigethy, M.D. and extend our sincere condolences  
17 to his family, friends, and all who knew and loved him; and be  
18 it further

19 RESOLVED, That a suitable copy of this resolution be  
20 presented to the family of Dr. Szigethy as an expression of our  
21 deepest sympathy.