



HR0244

LRB103 32090 LAW 61078 r

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HOUSE RESOLUTION

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WHEREAS, The members of the Illinois House of Representatives are saddened to learn of the death of Erich Himmel, who passed away in August of 2022; and

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WHEREAS, Erich Himmel was born outside of Munich, Germany in the City of Moosburg on January 3, 1936; he was joined by his wife of 65 years, Ingeborg "Inge", when he emigrated to New Hampshire in 1958; they later moved to Chicago for his work as a mechanic for Volkswagen (VW); and

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WHEREAS, Erich Himmel was drafted into the U.S. Army while a German citizen and served with honor in Germany during the building of the Berlin Wall; following his military career, he returned to Chicago as a general manager for VW, eventually opening several Volkswagen dealerships; he and his daughter, Carol, built a successful autobody shop, which is still in the family today and presently operated by his grandson, Erich; and

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WHEREAS, Erich Himmel became president of the Rheinischer Verein Mardi Gras Society in 1984, and he served in that position for more than 25 years; after being mentored by Karl Laschet, he became president of the United German American Societies; he was knighted for his service and later held the

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1 position of grand chancellor for the United States of The Het
2 Golden Vleis; and

3 WHEREAS, For his contributions to the preservation of
4 German culture in foreign lands, Erich Himmel received the
5 highest civilian medal of honor from the President of Germany
6 in 1984, the Bundesverdienstkreutz First Class medal of honor;
7 in 2020, he realized his dream of creating a German Haus for
8 all the clubs in an umbrella organization to call home and
9 celebrated the 100-year anniversary of the United German
10 American Societies with family and friends; he served as the
11 grand marshal of the Von Steuben parade in Chicago for
12 decades, bringing together diplomats, public officials,
13 members of the German American Societies, and many others for
14 this wonderful neighborhood celebration; and

15 WHEREAS, Erich Himmel was a friend and mentor to many,
16 from public officials to newcomers to the United States from
17 Germany and other countries to his employees to community
18 members; he embraced every opportunity to educate people about
19 German culture and traditions; he passed these values to his
20 two daughters who, as German Americans, have carried on his
21 legacy of welcoming people of all backgrounds to celebrate and
22 enjoy German culture; and

23 WHEREAS, At the time of his passing, Erich Himmel was

1 survived by his wife, Inge; his daughters, Diana and Carol;
2 his son-in-law, Jerry; his grandchildren, Erich "Bubba"
3 (Esther), Michelle (JJ), and Ashley; and his
4 great-grandchildren, Parker and Hudson; therefore, be it

5 RESOLVED, BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE
6 HUNDRED THIRD GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, that
7 we mourn the passing of Erich Himmel and extend our sincere
8 condolences to his family, friends, and all who knew and loved
9 him; and be it further

10 RESOLVED, That a suitable copy of this resolution be
11 presented to the family of Erich Himmel as an expression of our
12 deepest sympathy.