



HR0281

LRB103 31335 ECR 58766 r

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HOUSE RESOLUTION

2           WHEREAS, The members of the Illinois House of  
3 Representatives are saddened to learn of the death of Henry W.  
4 "Hank" Flora of Aurora, who passed away on February 26, 2023;  
5 and

6           WHEREAS, Henry Flora was born to William and Jennie Flora  
7 in Carlisle, Pennsylvania on February 16, 1918; he graduated  
8 from Carlisle High School, where he was a star football  
9 player; he earned his bachelor's degree in Electrical  
10 Engineering from Pennsylvania State University (Penn State) in  
11 1941, where he participated in the ROTC program; he married  
12 Lois Squires in Missouri on October 23, 1943; later in life, he  
13 earned his master's degree in Management Engineering from  
14 Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute (RPI) in Troy, New York; and

15           WHEREAS, Henry Flora worked as a relay engineer at West  
16 Penn Power Company for a year before enlisting in the U.S. Army  
17 due to the attack on Pearl Harbor in 1941; on Pearl Harbor Day  
18 two years later, he sailed to the South Pacific, where he  
19 served under General Douglas MacArthur and played a critical  
20 role in communications, helping to establish the radio  
21 communications network that sent information back to the  
22 United States from wherever Gen. MacArthur was establishing  
23 headquarters during the conflict to regain control of the

1 Philippines; and

2 WHEREAS, Henry Flora became a commanding officer of the  
3 U.S. Army Signal Corps Transmitting Station at the Hemmant  
4 military camp in Brisbane, Australia, where he operated a  
5 powerful twin channel transmitter; as commanding officer, he  
6 was in charge of the system that transmitted the majority of  
7 communications in the South Pacific; he was transferred to  
8 Seabourn Communications in September 1944, where he was in  
9 charge of two specially-outfitted transmitting ships; and

10 WHEREAS, After arriving home from the Pacific, Henry Flora  
11 used his technical expertise to work at the Pentagon in  
12 Washington, D.C. during the Korean War; he then pursued a  
13 successful career in technology, first working at AT&T and  
14 then IBM; and

15 WHEREAS, Henry Flora was a proud member of The Gideons  
16 International and the American Heart Association, and he was a  
17 past president of the Ostomy Association; he was instrumental  
18 in the building of Faith Assembly of God in Poughkeepsie, New  
19 York, where he was a valued member and served on the board; and

20 WHEREAS, Henry Flora remained tech-savvy, never missed a  
21 Penn State game, and was a gardening, bird, and weather  
22 aficionado; and

1           WHEREAS, Henry Flora was preceded in death by his wife;  
2 his parents; and his granddaughter, Hadessa "Hadi" Flor; and

3           WHEREAS, Henry Flora is survived by his children, Bob  
4 (Marilyne) Flora, Heather (Stanley) Birnbaum, Steve (Sharon  
5 Presti) Flora, and Hollie (Alan) Flora-Holmquist; his  
6 grandchildren, Linnann (Pascal) Muhlemann, Lisa Flora, Rachel  
7 (Nathaniel) Wiseman, Wendy Birnbaum, Eli Stephen (Shoshana)  
8 Birnbaum, Ariel Andrew (Gal) Birnbaum, Chaim (Vered) Birnbaum,  
9 Lucas Flora, Amber (Kevin) Lawless, Jade (Sikander)  
10 Flora-Holmquist, and Garnet (Will Dowling) Flora-Holmquist;  
11 his great-grandchildren, Sedona, Zack, Shalev, Tzuk, Carmel,  
12 Lavie, Leilah, Alastor, and Murphy; his nieces and nephews;  
13 his countless cousins; and his family of friends; therefore,  
14 be it

15           RESOLVED, BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE  
16 HUNDRED THIRD GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, that  
17 we mourn the passing of Henry W. "Hank" Flora and extend our  
18 sincere condolences to his family, friends, and all who knew  
19 and loved him; and be it further

20           RESOLVED, That a suitable copy of this resolution be  
21 presented to the family of Henry Flora as an expression of our  
22 deepest sympathy.