



HR0416

LRB103 34043 MST 63860 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 James Zagel; and

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WHEREAS, James Zagel was born and raised in Chicago; as a child, he walked to Chicago Bears' games at Wrigley Field from his family's apartment in Lakeview; and

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WHEREAS, James Zagel received his Bachelor of Arts and his Master of Arts from the University of Chicago and his Juris Doctor from Harvard Law School; he played tennis while at the University of Chicago, and in 2011, he was awarded the school's Professional Achievement Award; and

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WHEREAS, James Zagel began his legal career as an assistant state's attorney in Cook County in 1965; he quickly became the lead legal analyst and strategist for the office; in June 1966, he trained police officers and prosecutors on the requirements of a new Supreme Court decision, *Miranda v. Arizona*, and the next month, he was on the prosecution team for *People v. Richard Speck*, which put him at the forefront of forensic science and psychology and the expanding role of constitutional doctrine in criminal procedure, areas of law in which he continued to specialize throughout his career; and

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1 WHEREAS, James Zagel then served as assistant attorney
2 general for the State of Illinois; in 1977, he became the
3 executive director of the Illinois Law Enforcement Commission,
4 serving until 1979; from 1979 until 1980, he was the director
5 of the Illinois Department of Revenue; and

6 WHEREAS, James Zagel was selected by Governor Thompson to
7 be the director of the Department of Law Enforcement in 1980;
8 later, he was named the first director of the Department of
9 State Police when Governor Thompson renamed the agency in
10 1985; he served from 1980 to 1987 and led the agency through a
11 period of modernization and reorganization; and

12 WHEREAS, Under James Zagel's leadership, the ISP became
13 the first state police agency accredited by the Commission on
14 Accreditation for Law Enforcement Agencies, Inc. (CALEA) and
15 the Division of State Troopers was created; during this time,
16 the State agreed to assume the additional responsibility of
17 patrolling Chicago city expressways, and the ISP experienced
18 the largest hiring of state troopers with what were called
19 "expressway classes"; in just two months of patrolling the
20 Chicago expressways, state troopers were credited with
21 dramatically making the expressways safer for motorists; the
22 ISP also created a first of its kind missing children program,
23 the Illinois State Enforcement Agencies to Recover Children

1 Unit (I-SEARCH), which was revolutionary in the development of
2 professionalizing law enforcement's response to missing
3 children, nearly 11 years before AMBER Alerts were created;
4 and

5 WHEREAS, James Zagel was a visionary who established the
6 Division of Forensic Services (DFS) and made the Illinois
7 State Police Crime Labs what they are today; at one time, DFS
8 was the third-largest system of crime laboratories in the
9 world, topped only by the FBI and Scotland Yard; the
10 toxicology laboratories were moved from the Department of
11 Public Health to the ISP, the Automated Fingerprint
12 Identification System (AFIS) was born, and I-SEARCH funds
13 secured electrophoresis equipment, which was ultimately the
14 creation of the DNA discipline within the ISP Crime Labs;
15 additionally, the ISP forensic laboratory system was the first
16 forensic system in the nation to be accredited by the American
17 Society of Crime Laboratory Directors/Laboratory Accreditation
18 Board (ASCLD/LAB); and

19 WHEREAS, James Zagel was nominated by President Ronald
20 Reagan to a seat on the U.S. District Court for the Northern
21 District of Illinois and was commissioned on April 22, 1987;
22 and

23 WHEREAS, James Zagel was nominated by Chief Justice

1 Roberts to serve on the United States Foreign Intelligence
2 Surveillance Court (FISC, also called the FISA Court), where
3 he served from 2008 until 2015; and

4 WHEREAS, James Zagel appeared in two motion pictures and
5 authored a fictional thriller; under the stage name J.S.
6 Block, he appeared as a judge in Music Box (1989) and returned
7 to the screen in Homicide, David Mamet's 1991 film; alongside
8 his academic writing and judicial opinions, he was an
9 accomplished storyteller; in his novel, Money to Burn (2002),
10 he imagined a federal judge who plans a robbery of the Federal
11 Reserve Bank of Chicago; and

12 WHEREAS, James Zagel assumed senior status in October of
13 2016; and

14 WHEREAS, James Zagel enjoyed jazz, tennis, films,
15 traveling, and spending time with his wife, Peggy; and

16 WHEREAS, James Zagel was a brilliant mind and jurist and
17 left behind an enduring culture of ethical, professional, and
18 intelligent enforcement of the law; and

19 WHEREAS, James Zagel is survived by his wife of 44 years,
20 Margaret "Peggy" Maxwell Zagel, and many beloved cousins and
21 dear friends; therefore, be it

1 RESOLVED, BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE
2 HUNDRED THIRD GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, that
3 we mourn the passing of James Zagel and extend our sincere
4 condolences to his family, friends, and all who knew and loved
5 him; and be it further

6 RESOLVED, That a suitable copy of this resolution be
7 presented to the family of James Zagel as an expression of our
8 deepest sympathy.