



SR0010

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SENATE RESOLUTION

2           WHEREAS, The members of the Illinois Senate wish to  
3 congratulate John F. Penn on his retirement and commend him  
4 for his decades of service to the members of LiUNA!, his  
5 community, and his country; and

6           WHEREAS, John Penn joined Local 362 of the Laborers'  
7 International Union of North America (LiUNA!) in 1965 at the  
8 age of 16; and

9           WHEREAS, John Penn rose through the ranks of his union,  
10 serving Laborers as secretary-treasurer and business manager  
11 of LiUNA! Local 362 in McLean County; and

12           WHEREAS, Under John Penn's leadership, LiUNA! Local 362  
13 grew significantly, giving a voice to scores of workers who  
14 previously had never benefited from union representation; and

15           WHEREAS, In response to several tragic accidents, John  
16 Penn stopped all highway construction in McLean County to  
17 force the State of Illinois to improve protections for  
18 vulnerable workers on the State's roadways, an effort that  
19 culminated in the creation of the State's Work Zone Safety  
20 Committee and implementation of numerous policies and actions  
21 that saved countless lives; and

1           WHEREAS, John Penn's role in representing LiUNA! members  
2 continually expanded, becoming business manager of the  
3 36-county North Central Illinois Laborers' District Council,  
4 business manager of the four-state Great Plains Laborers'  
5 District Council, and, ultimately, vice president and regional  
6 manager of LiUNA!'s 10-state Midwest Region and a member of  
7 the international union's General Executive Board; and

8           WHEREAS, John Penn was a tireless advocate for his members  
9 during his 49 years of service, typically beginning his work  
10 several hours before the sun would rise; and

11           WHEREAS, In addition to John Penn's commitment to his  
12 members, he managed to volunteer his time, talents, and  
13 organizing skills to numerous projects and programs that  
14 improved not only the greater Bloomington-Normal area but all  
15 of Illinois, including the United Way of McLean County, the  
16 Children's Christmas Party for Unemployed Families, and the  
17 McLean County Promise Council; and

18           WHEREAS, John Penn has been a member of the Special  
19 Olympics Illinois Board of Directors and has recruited dozens  
20 of LiUNA! Local 362 members to volunteer at the Special  
21 Olympics State Games every year for more than 40 years; and

1           WHEREAS, John Penn is a proud veteran of the United States  
2 Air Force having served in South Korea, Vietnam, and Guam; and

3           WHEREAS, The issues faced by veterans of all branches of  
4 our nation's armed forces have long been a concern of John Penn  
5 and prompted him to establish the Midwest Region Veterans'  
6 Committee and encourage all LiUNA! local unions to create  
7 veterans' committees of their own; and

8           WHEREAS, John Penn was a 2022 inductee to the Illinois  
9 Labor History Society's Union Hall of Honor, was honored by  
10 the Bloomington Pantagraph as its 2003 Person of the Year, and  
11 received a Thousand Points of Light Foundation award from  
12 President Bill Clinton in 1997 on behalf of his volunteer  
13 efforts and those of all Bloomington-Normal building  
14 tradespeople; and

15           WHEREAS, John Penn has been a devoted husband of 55 years  
16 to his wife, Mary, a loving father to their daughter, Shawn,  
17 and doting grandfather of three and great-grandfather of five;  
18 therefore, be it

19           RESOLVED, BY THE SENATE OF THE ONE HUNDRED THIRD GENERAL  
20 ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, that we congratulate John  
21 F. Penn on his retirement and commend him for his decades of  
22 service to the members of LiUNA!, his community, and his

1 country; and be it further

2       RESOLVED, That a suitable copy of this resolution be  
3 presented to John Penn as a symbol of our esteem and respect.