



SR0691

LRB103 36621 LAW 66730 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 Joseph McKinley "Joe" Wars of Elgin, who passed away on December 13, 2023; and

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WHEREAS, Joe Wars was born to Arthur Joseph and Fannie Jackson Wars in Charlottesville, Virginia on May 13, 1942; he was baptized at an early age at First Baptist Church on West Main Street in Charlottesville; he graduated from Carver High School in Newport News, Virginia and attended Virginia State University; and

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WHEREAS, Joe Wars had an illustrious sales career, starting with Sears & Roebuck in the late 1960s and continuing with Mattel Toys, Ferry Morris Seed Company, and Ron Hopkins Ford; in 1976, he was transferred by the Ferry Morris Seed Company from Roanoke, Virginia to Elgin, Illinois, where he served as district manager; he received numerous awards from the Ferry Morris Seed Company as well as his other employers; and

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WHEREAS, Joe Wars was dedicated to serving his community wherever he resided; he was a past president of the national chapter of the Black Jaycees while living in Roanoke, Virginia, and he became a lifetime member of the local chapter

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1 in Elgin; he chaired the City of Elgin's Dr. King Annual Food  
2 Drive since its inception in 2011; he served on the board of  
3 directors for the Elgin Boys and Girls Club and also belonged  
4 to the Elgin Human Relations Commission and the Elgin Image  
5 and Advisory Committee; and

6 WHEREAS, Joe Wars especially enjoyed celebrating and  
7 volunteering at Christmas; for many years, he donned a Santa  
8 suit, and he and his daughter, Stephanie, who served as his elf  
9 helper, distributed toys to children in the hospital; he also  
10 helped deliver gifts from the Salvation Army to area families;  
11 and

12 WHEREAS, For his volunteerism, Joe Wars received Elgin's  
13 Dr. King Legacy Award in 2017 and was named the honorary  
14 chairperson of the city's 2023 Crop Walk; and

15 WHEREAS, Joe Wars was known for his warm and welcoming  
16 personality; he will be remembered for his legacy of helping  
17 others; and

18 WHEREAS, Joe Wars was preceded in death by his parents;  
19 his brothers, Francis Jerome and Anthony Wendell Wars; and his  
20 aunt and uncle, Rosalee and Lawrence Keyes; and

21 WHEREAS, Joe Wars is survived by his wife of 59 Years,

1 Jeannette Davis Wars; his daughter, Stephanie (Martin)  
2 Wars-Williams; his grandchildren, Marissa, Ryan, and Taylor;  
3 his great-granddaughter, Olivia; his brother, Arthur Wars; his  
4 sister, Camilla (William) Wars Mitchell; his nieces, Chekisha  
5 and Yoma; his special cousins, Pauletta and Lawrence; and a  
6 host of other relatives and friends; therefore, be it

7       RESOLVED, BY THE SENATE OF THE ONE HUNDRED THIRD GENERAL  
8 ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, that we mourn the passing of  
9 Joseph McKinley "Joe" Wars and extend our sincere condolences  
10 to his family, friends, and all who knew and loved him; and be  
11 it further

12       RESOLVED, That a suitable copy of this resolution be  
13 presented to the family of Joe Wars as an expression of our  
14 deepest sympathy.