



SR1044

LRB103 40921 MST 73931 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 Robert Allen Magnuson, who passed away on January 15, 2023 at the age of 55; and

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WHEREAS, Robert Magnuson was born in Tulsa, Oklahoma and had an early love for history, law, and the connections between nations, interests that would guide his academic life and career; he was the oldest of five children and was often fearless, even going so far as to jump off the roof of his garage; and

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WHEREAS, Robert Magnuson cared deeply for his family, ensuring that even as oil crashed in his home state, his mother and younger siblings had enough food on the table to support themselves; and

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WHEREAS, Robert Magnuson had a knack for athletics, playing soccer, baseball, basketball, and football, among other sports; and

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WHEREAS, Robert Magnuson's athletic prowess earned him a variety of opportunities to go to college on a football scholarship, including West Point; ultimately, he chose to attend Knox College in Galesburg, where he met his wife,

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1 Jacqueline, in their shared international relations class; and

2 WHEREAS, Robert Magnuson served as president of the
3 student senate, played football, and joined the army via the
4 ROTC program during his time at college; after graduation, he
5 became an infantry officer and continued his education,
6 attending law school; and

7 WHEREAS, Robert Magnuson and Jacqueline got married in her
8 hometown of Chicago not long after they both graduated from
9 law school; afterward, he received a military posting at Fort
10 Benning, Georgia as a member of the JAG Corps and as an officer
11 in the 507th Parachute Infantry Regiment, completing 28 jumps;
12 and

13 WHEREAS, Robert Magnuson and Jacqueline had their first
14 child, their daughter Morgan, a year into their time at Fort
15 Benning; 18 months later, they celebrated the birth of their
16 first son, Christian; and

17 WHEREAS, Robert Magnuson and his family's lives were full
18 of moves; Jacqueline provided much stability for them during
19 this time, first as a stay-at-home mother and later as an at
20 home-educator, ensuring that there was a degree of constancy
21 to their nomadic lives; and

1 WHEREAS, Robert Magnuson was deployed to Iraq for 11
2 months in 2004; during this time, he helped implement the use
3 of JLENS (Joint Land Attack Cruise Missile Defense Elevated
4 Netted Sensor System), which helped save countless lives; in
5 Iraq, he tirelessly held the U.S. government in compliance
6 with environmental regulations, never compromising his ethics;
7 and

8 WHEREAS, Robert Magnuson returned from Iraq with various
9 health problems, but he never let them keep him from his family
10 and work; he returned to serving his country by joining the
11 reserve and holding various legal positions in the Army and
12 Department of Defense; and

13 WHEREAS, Robert Magnuson and Jacqueline moved to Germany,
14 where they welcomed their final child, their son Ian, just
15 weeks after moving; in Germany, his presence was frequently
16 requested at conferences as a subject matter expert; his
17 presentations on various international environmental
18 regulations are still being used today across NATO and the EU;
19 and

20 WHEREAS, Robert Magnuson's dedication to his family and
21 their dreams was relentless; even as his health continued to
22 bring new challenges, he watched Morgan graduate from William
23 and Mary with a degree in history, Christian become a software

1 engineer at Apple, and Ian dive into the rich world of
2 mathematics, science, and sports cars; and

3 WHEREAS, Robert Magnuson embodied compassion,
4 self-sacrifice, and loyalty; to his family and friends, he was
5 a source of light and wisdom, which stemmed from his lifelong
6 faith and deep knowledge born from experience; with an
7 unconditional love for all he met, his memory will be
8 treasured deeply by those whose lives he touched; and

9 WHEREAS, At the time of his passing, Robert Magnuson was
10 survived by his beloved Jacqueline; his three children,
11 Morgan, Christian, and Ian; his mother Patricia; and his four
12 siblings, Britt, Brian, Leif, and Mark; therefore, be it

13 RESOLVED, BY THE SENATE OF THE ONE HUNDRED THIRD GENERAL
14 ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, that we mourn the passing of
15 Robert Allen Magnuson and extend our sincere condolences to
16 his family, friends, and all who knew and loved him; and be it
17 further

18 RESOLVED, That a suitable copy of this resolution be
19 presented to the family of Robert Magnuson as an expression of
20 our deepest sympathy.