



SR0772

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SENATE RESOLUTION

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WHEREAS, The members of the Senate of the State of Illinois learned with regret of the death of Ray Shaw on Tuesday, June 6, 2006; and

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WHEREAS, Mr. Shaw was the founder of a Central Illinois mini-catering empire; Shaw's Catering & Restaurant was headquartered at 161 S. Jasper St. in Decatur; and

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WHEREAS, Mr. Shaw's story was one of a rags-to-riches rise in the business world; he grew up poor in a family of ten on a Tennessee farm and had a job washing dishes in a Memphis hotel by the age of 13; in 1950, he moved to Decatur and learned to be a breakfast cook at the former Hotel Orlando; he started a catering business from his garage and expanded his trade steadily; and

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WHEREAS, He opened the Jasper Street restaurant in 1974 and later added an outdoor facility called Shaw's Garden near his home, while he presided over a catering business that reached all over Central Illinois and beyond; in 2003, the business had more than 20 employees; and

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WHEREAS, The passing of Ray Shaw has been deeply felt by many, and he will be remembered for his strong sense of compassion; therefore, be it

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RESOLVED, BY THE SENATE OF THE NINETY-FOURTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, that we mourn the passing of Ray Shaw, and we extend our sincere condolences to his family, friends, and all who knew and loved him; and be it further

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RESOLVED, That a suitable copy of this resolution be presented to his family as an expression of our deepest sympathy.

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