



HR1084

LRB095 20462 GRL 48266 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 Joseph F. Prola of Springfield, who passed away on February 20, 2008; and

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WHEREAS, Joseph F. Prola was born on May 23, 1910 in Houghton, Michigan; he was the son of Peter and Mary Verbena Prola; he married Olive Hill on November 21, 1936; she preceded him in death in 1995; and

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WHEREAS, Joseph F. Prola grew up in Wilsonville; he was a resident of Springfield from 1930 until his passing; and

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WHEREAS, Joseph F. Prola became a member of ROTC while attending the University of Illinois, graduating as a second lieutenant; he was called to active duty in April of 1941 to serve as an instructor at the Army General Staff School in Fort Leavenworth; in October of 1944, as a lieutenant colonel, he was called to serve at Third Army Headquarters under General George Patton, where he served as the general's supply officer during the Battle of the Bulge; he was promoted to the rank of full colonel in August of 1945 and served in the Army Reserves until May of 1970; during his reserve officer service, he taught at the Pentagon during six terms on active duty and was president of the Illinois Reserve Officers Association; and

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1 WHEREAS, Joseph F. Prola's professional career began as a
2 clerk at an insurance agency in Springfield in 1930, where he
3 met his wife, Olive; he soon after became the executive
4 director and president of the association and an owner of what
5 became Joseph F. Prola & Co. Insurance Agency; he was also
6 employed in the savings and loan industry as president of
7 Sangamon Home Savings and as executive vice president of
8 Security Federal Savings and Loan Association (now Security
9 Bank); he retired at the age of 86; and

10 WHEREAS, Joseph F. Prola was active in many community
11 organizations in the City of Springfield; he was a 40-year
12 member and national president of the American Business Club; he
13 served as chairman of the Springfield United Fund in 1960; he
14 was the president of the Springfield and Sangamon County United
15 Way; he served as an advisory board member for the Salvation
16 Army for 15 years; he served as president of the Springfield
17 Chamber of Commerce; he was a member and president of the
18 Lincoln Library Board; he was a member of the Illinois Savings
19 and Loan Board for more than 20 years, serving as its president
20 in 1986; he served as president of the Illinois Association of
21 Insurance Agents in 1955; he served as president of the
22 Illinois League of Savings Institutions in 1970; he served on
23 the Executive Committee of the United States League of Savings
24 Institutions from 1975 until 1978; he served as a registered

1 lobbyist for both the insurance and savings and loan
2 industries; he was a member of Illini Country Club for more
3 than 50 years, serving on its board of directors and as its
4 president in 1959; and he was also a member of the Sangamo
5 Club; and

6 WHEREAS, Joseph F. Prola was a champion bowler during his
7 early years in Springfield; he was an avid golfer who traveled
8 across the country with his wife, Olive, to play at premier
9 courses, such as the St. Andrews Golf Course in Scotland and
10 Pinehurst Golf Course in North Carolina, where he scored a
11 hole-in-one at the No. 4 Course; he also loved reading,
12 ballroom dancing, gin, and bridge; and

13 WHEREAS, Joseph F. Prola was preceded in death by his wife;
14 and his son, Robert H. Prola; and

15 WHEREAS, Joseph F. Prola is survived by his daughter, Dee
16 (husband, Illinois State Representative Mark) Beaubien; his
17 grandchildren, Mark J. Beaubien, Robert P. Beaubien, Joseph
18 Prola, and Hilary Prola; his great-grandchildren, Annie,
19 Bobby, Ella, and Mark; his niece, Connie Deatherage; and his
20 nephew, Rich Berutti; therefore, be it

21 RESOLVED, BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE
22 NINETY-FIFTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, that we

1 mourn, along with his family and friends, the passing of Joseph
2 F. Prola; and be it further

3 RESOLVED, That a suitable copy of this resolution be
4 presented to the family of Joseph F. Prola as an expression of
5 our sympathy.