



HR1402

LRB095 21675 GRL 51878 r

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HOUSE RESOLUTION

2 WHEREAS, The members of the Illinois House of
3 Representatives are saddened to learn of the death of William
4 Thomas Eichenauer of Decatur, who passed away on June 1, 2008;
5 and

6 WHEREAS, William Eichenauer was born on August 6, 1929 in
7 Decatur; he was the son of Harold Lyn and Marianna (Rucker)
8 Eichenauer; he married Nancy Lee Fisher on August 8, 1953 in
9 Port Washington, New York; and

10 WHEREAS, William Eichenauer was a life-long resident of
11 Decatur; he graduated with the Class of 1947 at Decatur High
12 School and received his bachelor's degree in Engineering
13 Administration from Millikin University in 1951; and

14 WHEREAS, William Eichenauer served in the United States
15 Army from 1951 until 1953, performing tests and experimental
16 work on radar in conjunction with Army Field Forces Board IV
17 Sperry Gyroscope Company and Raytheon Corporation field
18 engineers at Ft. Bliss, Texas and White Sands, New Mexico; and

19 WHEREAS, William Eichenauer and his father, Harold,
20 established Eichenauer Services, Inc. (ESI), an electrical
21 contracting and commercial food equipment service company, in

1 1955; after purchasing his father's share of the business in
2 1972, he served as chairman of the board until 2004, when the
3 company was purchased by his sons; and

4 WHEREAS, William Eichenauer's leadership in the commercial
5 food equipment service industry helped establish the
6 Commercial Food Equipment Service Association (CFESA) in 1963,
7 where he served as president from 1969-1971 and 1983-1985; he
8 was instrumental in developing Tech Trac 80, a national
9 technical training program at the Northwood Institute, and
10 garnered national recognition with the Presidential
11 Distinguished Service Award from (CFESA) in 1977 and the
12 Outstanding Top Service Company in the nation by Vulcan Hart
13 Corporation in Louisville, Kentucky in 1988; ESI was also
14 recognized as the Decatur Chamber of Commerce Small Business of
15 the Year in 1981 and was named the Illinois Small Business of
16 the Year by Loyola University in 2002; and

17 WHEREAS, William Eichenauer was a tireless supporter of
18 Millikin University for fifty-seven years; he served as
19 president of the local fraternal chapter of Sigma Alpha Epsilon
20 and the Millikin Quarterback Club and served as chairman for
21 the Millikin Annual Fund Drive, Capital Fund Drive, and
22 Centennial Committee; he was elected to the Millikin Board of
23 Trustees in 1993 and continued to serve as an Emeritus trustee
24 afterwards; his favorite activity was running the scoreboard

1 for Millikin's football and basketball games; in honor of his
2 service to the university, he received the Alumni Loyalty Award
3 in 1966 and the Alumnus of the Year in 1996; and

4 WHEREAS, William Eichenauer's commitment to education
5 extended throughout his community; he served on the Advisory
6 Council for establishment of the Community College of Decatur
7 (Richland), the Vocational Education Task Force for the State
8 of Illinois Department of Education, and the Advisory Council
9 to the District 61 Area Vocational Center; he recently worked
10 to establish the Center for Creative Learning and the Culinary
11 Institute at Richland Community College, which will offer
12 classes in the fall of 2008; and

13 WHEREAS, William Eichenauer's dedication to revitalizing
14 the historic areas of Decatur led to the establishment of the
15 Oakwood Business Association, where he served as chairman, and
16 the Olde Towne Redevelopment Corporation for the City of
17 Decatur, which offers funding to homeowners for property
18 improvements in Decatur's West End; his efforts to influence
19 the creation of the West Main Corridor resulted in the
20 completion of its first phase in 2007; he continued to serve on
21 the Lincoln Square Theatre board as past chairman to support
22 ongoing efforts to renovate the historic theatre; and

23 WHEREAS, William Eichenauer's concern for the plight of

1 America's wolf population led to his involvement in
2 establishing the wolf exhibit at Scovill Zoo; and

3 WHEREAS, William Eichenauer was a past chairman of the
4 Community Investment Corporation of Decatur, and was elected to
5 the board of trustees for First National Bank, First Decatur
6 Bancshares (now Busey Bank) in 1992; he was a member of the
7 Westminster Presbyterian Church, where he served as Deacon,
8 Elder, and president of the Board of Trustees; in honor of his
9 dedication to the Decatur community, he was named the Citizen
10 of the Year by the City of Decatur in 2007; and

11 WHEREAS, William Eichenauer took pleasure from woodworking
12 and gardening and was an avid rock hound; he thoroughly enjoyed
13 hunting for gems in the Smoky Mountains of North Carolina
14 during family vacations and was grateful for his role as "Head
15 Guru" on camping trips across the country with the nine "Guru"
16 families; and

17 WHEREAS, William Eichenauer is survived by his loving wife,
18 Nancy; his sisters, Betty Peters (Roy) and Mary Jane Babb
19 (Rob); his sons, Tom (Gloria) and Lee (Toni); his daughters,
20 Beth Stringer, Patty Jones, and Sue Allen (John); and his 17
21 grandchildren; and

22 WHEREAS, William Eichenauer took great pride in his family

1 and worked to instill a strong sense of self; he lived by four
2 basic tenets, which consisted of worshipping God, working hard,
3 cherishing his family, and giving back to his community; his
4 selfless passion for living, voracious desire to keep learning,
5 and the deep love he held for his family and the city he called
6 home will be greatly missed by his loved ones and his many
7 friends; therefore, be it

8 RESOLVED, BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE
9 NINETY-FIFTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, that we
10 mourn, along with his family and friends, the passing of
11 William Eichenauer; and be it further

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