



HR0504

LRB096 13209 GRL 27826 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 John  
4 Cribbet, who passed away on May 23, 2009; and

5           WHEREAS, John Cribbet was born on February 21, 1918 in  
6 Findlay; he was the son of Howard and Ruth Cribbet; he earned  
7 his bachelor's degree from Illinois Wesleyan University in 1940  
8 and enrolled at the University of Illinois College of Law; and

9           WHEREAS, In the summer of 1941, John Cribbet interrupted  
10 his studies to enlist in the U.S. Army as a private; over the  
11 next four years, he rose in rank and responsibility, completing  
12 his military career as a major and aide-de-camp for the 8th  
13 Corps Commander, General Troy Middleton; Mr. Cribbet's  
14 distinguished service earned him the Bronze Star and Croix de  
15 Guerre; and

16           WHEREAS, John Cribbet earned his law degree in 1947; after  
17 a few months in private practice in Bloomington, he was  
18 recruited to University of Illinois' College of Law by  
19 long-time Dean Albert J. Harno; he served as an assistant  
20 professor from 1947 to 1951 and as an associate professor from  
21 1951 until 1953, when he became a professor; in 1967, he was  
22 named the College of Law's seventh dean, a post he held until

1 being named chancellor in 1979, where he remained until 1984;  
2 and

3 WHEREAS, Following his tenure at the University of Illinois,  
4 John Cribbet returned to the College of Law and taught for 12  
5 years before retiring in 1988; and

6 WHEREAS, John Cribbet played a key role in the University  
7 of Illinois' growth; he also helped to revive Illini football  
8 by hiring then-coach Mike White, who took the team to its first  
9 Rose Bowl in two decades in 1984; he was also instrumental in  
10 the creation of the Beckman Institute for Advanced Science and  
11 Technology, one of the largest interdisciplinary research  
12 centers among U.S. universities, in 1985; and

13 WHEREAS, John Cribbet was the author of numerous legal  
14 texts, including the widely used "Cases and Materials on  
15 Property", a law textbook now in its eighth edition; and

16 WHEREAS, John Cribbet was active in a variety of  
17 organizations; he served as president of the Association of  
18 American Law Schools, chairman of the Illinois Supreme Court  
19 Committee on Judicial Ethics, board member of the Illinois  
20 Institute of Continuing Legal Education, president of the  
21 Champaign County United Fund, and member of the Champaign City  
22 Planning Commission; he was a long-time member of the Urbana

1 Rotary Club and a Rotary International Paul Harris Fellow; he  
2 was also involved in many county and State bar associations, as  
3 well as the American Bar Association; and

4 WHEREAS, John Cribbet is survived by his wife, Betty, and  
5 his daughters, Pamela and Carol Ann and their families; and

6 WHEREAS, John Cribbet will be remembered by all who knew  
7 and loved him as a legendary teacher and scholar in the field  
8 of property law and a gentleman who never spoke ill of anyone;  
9 therefore, be it

10 RESOLVED, BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE  
11 NINETY-SIXTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, that we  
12 mourn, along with his family and friends, the passing of John  
13 Cribbet; and be it further

14 RESOLVED, That a suitable copy of this resolution be  
15 presented to the family of John Cribbet as an expression of our  
16 sympathy.