



SR0761

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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 Neal McGarry Bidwill of Broward County, Florida, formerly of Chicago, who passed away on April 2, 2010; and

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WHEREAS, He was born in Chicago on May 23, 1930, and was raised in the city's near west suburbs, graduating from Fenwick High School; after attending Loyola University in Chicago, he served in the United States Air Force; and

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WHEREAS, Upon discharge from the military, he began operating The Pacific Company, a construction business originally formed by his great-grandfather in 1914; under his stewardship, the business flourished; he operated the business for almost sixty years up to the time of his death, providing sidewalk, street, and electrical contracting services throughout Chicago and Northern Illinois; and

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WHEREAS, Having a talent for business and an entrepreneurial spirit, he was involved in many business pursuits throughout his life; among his many business endeavors, he owned and operated an insurance company, a carwash, a sports store, an RV dealership, a lakefront restaurant in Wisconsin, a home building business, and a beach

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1 side motel; and

2 WHEREAS, Following in the footsteps of his grandfather, a  
3 Chicago Alderman in the late 19th century, and his father, who  
4 served 38 years in the Illinois Senate, including ten years as  
5 President and majority leader, and having a passion for  
6 politics and public service, Neal Bidwill served in public  
7 office and participated in political affairs throughout much of  
8 his life; and

9 WHEREAS, While living in Illinois, he was elected three  
10 times to serve as a Village Trustee of the Town of River  
11 Forest, serving from 1961-1967; during those years, he also  
12 served as the elected Republican Committeeman from River  
13 Forest; he ultimately was appointed to serve on the Cook County  
14 Republican Executive Committee, and was instrumental in many  
15 successful political campaigns, including those of his father;  
16 and

17 WHEREAS, In 1963, he received a certificate of appreciation  
18 from President Kennedy in "grateful recognition of valuable  
19 service contributed to the nation and the Selective Service  
20 System in the administration of the Universal Military Training  
21 and Service Act"; and

22 WHEREAS, Upon moving to Broward County, Florida, in 1975,

1 he continued his career of public service; in the late 1970s,  
2 he served two terms as an elected councilman in Sea Ranch  
3 Lakes, Florida; in 1980 he was elected to serve as Mayor of Sea  
4 Ranch Lakes, and was re-elected in 1982 and 1984, serving a  
5 total of three terms in that office; as the Mayor of Sea Ranch  
6 Lakes he successfully improved municipal services, while  
7 significantly cutting costs; he also successfully fought the  
8 forced annexation of Sea Ranch Lakes into the City of Pompano  
9 Beach; and

10 WHEREAS, While his own public service ended in the 1980s,  
11 his passion for politics and public affairs continued to the  
12 time of his death, and he lived to see his own son, Martin,  
13 appointed, and then elected, as a Broward Circuit Court Judge,  
14 and his son, Joseph, elected as a Village Trustee in Fontana,  
15 Wisconsin; and

16 WHEREAS, Neal Bidwill was blessed with a large, loving,  
17 Irish Catholic family and many close friends; he had a sharp,  
18 but playful, wit even to the end of his life, and he always  
19 enjoyed telling and re-telling a good story; he was an  
20 accomplished musician, he enjoyed reading and boating, tennis,  
21 golf, football, and horse racing, a cold beer, a friendly bet,  
22 and, at one time, a good cigar; he touched many, many lives,  
23 especially his family and close friends; and

1           WHEREAS, Neal Bidwill is survived by five children, Joseph  
2 Bidwill, Martin Bidwill, Mary Maxfield, Jane Soto, Catherine  
3 Stiffler, and their mother, Patricia; his daughters-in-law,  
4 Karol Bidwill and Michelle Bidwill; his sons-in-law Alex Soto,  
5 Eric Maxfield, and Daniel Stiffler; his fifteen grandchildren,  
6 Kathleen (and her husband Joe Ortiz), Connor, Arthur, Kacie,  
7 Veronica, Stephanie, Madeline, Amy, Sophia, Holden, Emma,  
8 Joseph, Eliza, Patrick, and Jack; his great-grandson, Joseph;  
9 his brother, Father Joseph Bidwill; his sister, Jane Maus and  
10 her husband, Bill; his longtime, devoted companion, Diane  
11 Whewell; and dozens of nieces, nephews, and cousins; therefore,  
12 be it

13           RESOLVED, BY THE SENATE OF THE NINETY-SIXTH GENERAL  
14 ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, that we mourn, along with  
15 his family and friends, the passing of Neal Bidwill; and be it  
16 further

17           RESOLVED, That a suitable copy of this resolution be  
18 presented to the family of Neal Bidwill as a symbol of our  
19 sincere sympathy.