



HR0312

LRB097 11709 KXB 54778 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 Robert G.  
4 Kirchner of Urbana, who passed away on April 17, 2011; and

5           WHEREAS, Robert Kirchner was born on June 23, 1956, in  
6 Joliet; his parents were Robert and Margaret (Keyser) Kirchner;  
7 he grew up in New Lenox; and

8           WHEREAS, Robert Kirchner attended Western Illinois  
9 University, earning his Bachelor's degree in philosophy and  
10 political science in 1976 and his Master's degree in political  
11 science in 1977; while in college, he met his future wife,  
12 Gerri; they married August 25, 1979, in Park Ridge; he later  
13 attended the University of Illinois College of Law, and earned  
14 his law degree in 1982; and

15           WHEREAS, After earning his law degree, he joined the  
16 Champaign law practice of Burt Greaves and Art Lerner, which  
17 became Greaves, Lerner and Kirchner, and later, Lerner and  
18 Kirchner; in 2002, he opened his own law office in Champaign;  
19 he argued many cases before the appellate courts and the  
20 Illinois Supreme Court, winning several cases that established  
21 legal precedents; he was well known among his peers as a  
22 champion of numerous legal causes that other attorneys would

1 not take; and

2 WHEREAS, He ran as a Democratic candidate for State  
3 Representative in 1996; despite losing the election, his  
4 campaign engaged public participation by hosting a series of  
5 monthly symposiums on key issues impacting State legislation,  
6 including education funding, crime, drug abuse, gun control,  
7 child welfare, women's rights, health care, employment laws,  
8 and campaign finance reform; and

9 WHEREAS, Robert Kirchner served on the Champaign County  
10 Board as the District 9 representative, appointed in 2001 and  
11 elected in 2002 to a 2-year term; as a member of the board, he  
12 voted to pass laws to guarantee a living wage for all full-time  
13 county employees, prohibit employment discrimination on the  
14 basis of race, gender, or sexual orientation, and establish  
15 free dental care for low-income children; he served as chair of  
16 the county nursing home sub-committee and worked on the  
17 successful passage of the referendum proposal to fund its  
18 construction; and

19 WHEREAS, Robert Kirchner served as Vice President of the  
20 Champaign County Bar Association from 1994 to 1995; in 1994, he  
21 helped establish Best Interest of Children, a local non-profit  
22 organization dedicated to child and family advocacy, and served  
23 on the organization's board; and

1           WHEREAS, He was an avid softball player, and enjoyed  
2 volleyball, bocce ball, bowling, ping pong, bridge, hearts,  
3 pinochle, poker, and other games; and

4           WHEREAS, Robert Kirchner is survived by his wife of 32  
5 years, Gerri; his sisters, Marlene (Dennis) Gallagher and  
6 Lorrie (Robert) Chaplin; his brothers, John (Carol) Burkhart,  
7 Ron (Laura) Kirchner, and David Kirchner; his brother-in-law,  
8 Paul (Sue) Geissler; his sister-in-law, Shelly (Paul) Kotecki;  
9 his 4 nephews; and his 7 nieces; therefore, be it

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

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