



SR0413

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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 Ralph J. Coletta, who passed away on October 19, 2011; and

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WHEREAS, Ralph Coletta was born on December 13, 1921, in Chillicothe; his parents were Cesidio and Assunta Aromatario Coletta; he married Ethel Mary Meyers on November 19, 1949, at St. Bernard Catholic Church in Peoria; and

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WHEREAS, Ralph Coletta was a graduate of Chillicothe Grade School and Peoria High School; he then earned his bachelor's degree from Bradley Polytechnic Institute, now Bradley University, and his doctorate in law from the University of Chicago Law School in 1949; he then passed his bar examination that same year; and

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WHEREAS, Ralph Coletta served his country with pride and distinction as a member of the United States Army during World War II; after graduating from the United States Army Infantry School at Fort Benning, Georgia, he was commissioned as a lieutenant of infantry; he served in the South Pacific Theater of Operations until the surrender of Japanese forces, when he served with the United States Army of Occupation in Japan as a Japanese language interpreter with the general headquarters of

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1 Gen. Douglas MacArthur; he also served at the Fifth Army
2 headquarters at Fort Sheridan, and as a reserve officer from
3 1948 to 1949; and

4 WHEREAS, Ralph Coletta founded the family law firm in
5 Peoria in 1950, being later joined in the practice of law by
6 his sons, Joseph and Robert; he served as a lawyer for more
7 than 55 years and was recognized as a senior counselor by the
8 Illinois State Bar Association in 2000; he was admitted to
9 practice before all Illinois courts and the Supreme Court of
10 the United States; and

11 WHEREAS, Ralph Coletta served as assistant state's
12 attorney of Peoria County from 1952 to 1956; he later served as
13 vice chairman of the Business and Commercial Law Committee of
14 the American Bar Association; and

15 WHEREAS, Ralph Coletta was a member of the American, State
16 of Illinois, Chicago, and Peoria County Bar Associations; he
17 served as a hearing officer for the Illinois Pollution Control
18 Board from 1970 to 1975; he was also a member of Land of
19 Lincoln Packards and Packard Automobile Association, the
20 Italian American Society, the American Legion Peoria Post No. 2
21 and the 40 et 8 of the Legion, the Knights of Columbus, Mount
22 Hawley Country Club, the Union League Club of Chicago, the
23 Creve Coeur Club of Peoria, the Bradley University B Club, the

1 Bradley Chiefs Club, and Lakeview Museum; and

2 WHEREAS, Ralph Coletta was active in the development of
3 real estate in the Peoria area and served as president of 2
4 real estate development organizations, the White Star
5 Corporation and as a general partner of The Ralet Limited
6 Partnership and Mark Tidd Inc; he was a former director of the
7 Illinois Valley Savings and Loan Association for many years and
8 was a founding director and officer in Wheels O'Time Museum; he
9 also served as a director of the Peoria Regional Museum
10 Society; and

11 WHEREAS, Ralph Coletta was a former director of St. Jude
12 Midwest Affiliate and an adviser to the Peoria Area Blind
13 People's Center; he was a former Republican Precinct
14 Committeeman for 10 years and was a Republican delegate to
15 Illinois; he was a former member of the Peoria Junior Chamber
16 of Commerce and the Peoria Chamber of Commerce; he was also a
17 Mass Lector and served on the Parish Council at St. Philomena
18 Catholic Church, where he was a member for many years; and

19 WHEREAS, Ralph Coletta was preceded in death by his
20 parents; his daughter, Renee Joers; his brother, John; and his
21 grandson, Adam Ahitow; and

22 WHEREAS, Ralph Coletta is survived by his wife; his

1 children, Jeanie Caskey (Barry Stortz), Michele (Dan) Smith,
2 Robert (Valencia) Coletta, Marianne (Pete) Hoener, Suzanne
3 (Vince) Kennedy, and Joseph (Debra); his 14 grandchildren; his
4 2 great-granddaughters; and his great-grandson; therefore, be
5 it

6 RESOLVED, BY THE SENATE OF THE NINETY-SEVENTH GENERAL
7 ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, that we mourn, along with
8 his family and friends, the passing of Ralph J. Coletta; and be
9 it further

10 RESOLVED, That a suitable copy of this resolution be
11 presented to the family of Ralph Coletta as an expression of
12 our sympathy.