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SENATE RESOLUTION

2           WHEREAS, The members of the Illinois Senate are deeply  
3 saddened to learn of the death of Fred Abdula of Waukegan, who  
4 passed away on October 12, 2012; and

5           WHEREAS, Fred Abdula was born on August 22, 1925, in  
6 Waukegan to Joseph and Valda Abdula; he graduated from Waukegan  
7 Township High School in 1943; he served in the U.S. Marine  
8 Corps during World War II in the South Pacific and he earned  
9 his BSME from the University of Illinois; and

10           WHEREAS, Fred Abdula worked for Deep Freeze, Inc. and  
11 Johnson Motors in Waukegan; in 1955, he started his own  
12 business, Air Con Refrigeration and Heating, Inc.; he belonged  
13 to the Lake County Contractors Association and served as its  
14 president in 1973 and 1979; and

15           WHEREAS, Fred Abdula was elected to the board of directors  
16 at the Bank of Waukegan (NorStates Bank) in 1975; in 1982, he  
17 was elected chairman of the board and CEO; upon his retirement  
18 in 2011, the NorStates main facility on Lewis Avenue was  
19 designated The Honorary Fred Abdula Banking Center; and

20           WHEREAS, Fred Abdula's love for the community in which he  
21 lived and worked led him to become one of the prime people in

1 the refurbishment of the Genesee Theatre, serving on the board  
2 of directors since 1991; the Genesee Theatre stage was named in  
3 his honor; and

4 WHEREAS, Fred Abdula held many prestigious positions, such  
5 as director of the Waukegan/Lake County Chamber of Commerce,  
6 chairman of the First Federal Bank and CEO, member of the board  
7 of directors of the Waukegan Business Association, and member  
8 of the board of directors of Vista Health Systems; and

9 WHEREAS, Fred Abdula and his wife had many philanthropic  
10 endeavors, including donations to the College of Lake County  
11 Foundation, resulting in the annual Abdula Scholarship,  
12 attempting to strengthen Israel's economy through the Israel  
13 Bond campaign, resulting in his winning the "Gates to  
14 Jerusalem" medal, and his donation of funds to purchase police  
15 dogs for the city of Waukegan; and

16 WHEREAS, Fred Abdula was involved in many service  
17 organizations, such as The United Way, the American Legion,  
18 Elks, Lions, Kiwanis, and Moose Clubs; he had many honors  
19 bestowed to him over the years, including CEO of the year by  
20 Financial World Magazine in 1993, Chicago Entrepreneurship  
21 Hall of Fame inductee in 2003, distinguished alumnus award by  
22 the Department of Mechanical Engineering at the University of  
23 Illinois in 2006, Patron of the Year-Waukegan Park District in

1 2009, and grand marshal of Waukegan's American Independence  
2 Parade in 2011; and

3 WHEREAS, Fred Abdula is survived by his wife of 63 years,  
4 Anna Marie; his children, Linda (James) Considine, Patrick  
5 Abdula, Michael Abdula, and Lisa Abdula; his sister, Marlene  
6 Hunt; and many adoring nieces and nephews; therefore, be it

7 RESOLVED, BY THE SENATE OF THE NINETY-SEVENTH GENERAL  
8 ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, that we mourn the passing of  
9 Fred Abdula, and we extend our sincere condolences to his  
10 family, friends, and all who knew and loved him; and be it  
11 further

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