



HR0950

LRB098 20728 GRL 57682 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 Illinois
4 GOP mainstay Rich Williamson of Kenilworth, who passed away on
5 December 8, 2013; and

6 WHEREAS, Rich Williamson was born on May 9, 1949 in
7 Evanston to Marian and Donald Williamson; he attended New Trier
8 High School and Princeton University, where he played varsity
9 football, was senior class president, and graduated cum laude
10 in 1971; he went on to receive his law degree from the
11 University of Virginia in 1974, where he was executive editor
12 of the Virginia Journal of International Law; during his time
13 at Princeton, he met the love of his life, Jane Thatcher, on a
14 plane as he was returning home from Princeton and she was
15 returning home from Wellesley; it was love at first sight and
16 they were married soon after; and

17 WHEREAS, Rich Williamson had a long and successful career
18 that stretched from being a top foreign policy adviser to GOP
19 presidential nominee Mitt Romney to taking on Carol Moseley
20 Braun; and

21 WHEREAS, Rich Williamson served 3 presidents in high-level
22 positions, serving as Assistant Secretary of State for

1 International Affairs, Assistant to the President for
2 Intergovernmental Affairs, Ambassador to the U.N. for Special
3 Political Affairs, and Ambassador to the U.N. Commission on
4 Human Rights, as well as several other posts at the United
5 Nations; and

6 WHEREAS, Rich Williamson tried his hand at electoral
7 politics and ran for the U.S. Senate in 1992; he later served
8 as Republican National Committeeman for Illinois and chaired
9 the Illinois Republican Party from 1999 to 2001; in 2007,
10 former President George W. Bush tapped him to be a special
11 envoy for Sudan to help stop killing in the Darfur region; at
12 the time of his passing, he was working with former Secretary
13 of State Madeleine Albright on the prevention of future
14 genocides; and

15 WHEREAS, Rich Williamson also worked as a partner at the
16 law firms of Winston & Strawn and Mayer Brown, taught foreign
17 policy at Northwestern University, and wrote books on foreign
18 policy; he authored 8 books, edited 3, and wrote more than 175
19 articles in professional and popular periodicals; and

20 WHEREAS, Rich Williamson was known to not carry much on his
21 travel, but he always had 10 pounds of books and a yellow legal
22 pad that he preferred to a laptop; he lived in a home filled
23 with thousands of books and mementos of his travels, including

1 baskets, sculptures, and masks produced by refugees, and photos
2 of his family in Dubai, Egypt, Turkey, Greece, and Croatia; and

3 WHEREAS, Rich Williamson will be sorely missed by his
4 family and by the people he served; he has left a lasting
5 legacy, not only on Illinois and the United States, but on the
6 world as well; and

7 WHEREAS, Rich Williamson is survived by his loving wife of
8 40 years, Jane Thatcher; his children, Elisabeth (Ryan) Graham,
9 Craig Salisbury, and Richard (Sara) Middleton; his
10 granddaughter, Cora Jane; his brother, Bruce (Alice); his
11 sister, Barb (Erv); and his 10 nieces and nephews; therefore,
12 be it

13 RESOLVED, BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE
14 NINETY-EIGHTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, that
15 we mourn, along with his family, friends, and the citizens of
16 Illinois, the passing of Rich Williamson; and be it further

17 RESOLVED, That a suitable copy of this resolution be
18 presented to the family of Rich Williamson as a symbol of our
19 deepest sympathy and respect.