



SR1549

LRB098 23106 GRL 62081 r

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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 George K. Knudsen of Pontiac, who passed away on October 24, 2014; and

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WHEREAS, George Knudsen was born on August 20, 1936 in Dwight; his parents were George Nelson and Leila Gertrude (nee Parker) Knudsen; he married Germaine Centko on July 5, 1958; and

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WHEREAS, A native of Livingston County, George Knudsen was educated in Dwight schools; he subsequently attended Illinois Wesleyan University and graduated from Illinois State University; he was also a graduate of the United States Army Command and General Staff College and the National Defense University; and

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WHEREAS, George Knudsen enlisted in the Illinois National Guard 129th Infantry Regiment, Company B as a private in 1959, the same battalion in which his great-grandfather served in during the Civil War; being the son of a Danish immigrant, it was his privilege to serve on active duty in the Army Reserve and in the Illinois National Guard; his service included serving the State of Illinois and its citizens in times of floods, natural disasters, and civil disturbances; he retired

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1 at the rank of colonel in 1991, after 32 years of dedicated
2 service; and

3 WHEREAS, George Knudsen was the recipient of numerous
4 awards and decorations for his service, including the Army
5 Commendation Medal, the Army Reserve Components Achievement
6 Medal, the National Defense Service Medal, Armed Forces Reserve
7 Medal, the Army Service Ribbon, and the Illinois Long and
8 Honorable Service Medal; and

9 WHEREAS, George Knudsen retired from a management position
10 at Caterpillar, Inc. after more than 40 years of service in
11 1996; following his retirement, he remained active in veterans'
12 affairs, having served as Chairman of the Livingston County
13 Veterans Assistance Commission and as a member of the
14 Livingston County Board; he also worked on restoring the
15 Livingston County Poor Farm Cemetery for 5 years, worked on the
16 Lincoln statue on the Livingston County Courthouse lawn, and
17 was a speaker at local Memorial Day celebrations for many
18 years; and

19 WHEREAS, George Knudsen was a member of the Reserve
20 Officers Association of the United States, St. Mary's Catholic
21 Church in Pontiac, Cursillo, the American Legion, the Knights
22 of Columbus (Fourth Degree), the Benevolent and Protective
23 Order of Elks, the National Guard Association of Illinois, and

1 the National Guard Association of the United States; he was
2 also a life member of American Veterans and served as a member
3 of the Color and Honor Guard of the combined American Veterans;
4 and

5 WHEREAS, George Knudsen was preceded in death by his
6 parents and a daughter, Frances; and

7 WHEREAS, George Knudsen is survived by his wife, Germaine;
8 a son, G. Christian (Julie) Knudsen; 2 daughters, Kay (David)
9 Heller and Kim (Jeffrey) Longbons; 6 grandchildren, Letitia and
10 Grace Longbons, William Heller, and Sadie, Maya, and Gavin
11 Knudsen; and a brother, Thomas Knudsen; therefore, be it

12 RESOLVED, BY THE SENATE OF THE NINETY-EIGHTH GENERAL
13 ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, that we, along with his
14 family and friends, mourn the passing of George K. Knudsen; and
15 be it further

16 RESOLVED, That a suitable copy of this resolution be
17 presented to the family of George Knudsen as an expression of
18 our sympathy.