



HR0070

LRB099 06096 MST 26151 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  
4 Joseph "Bob" Stecher of West Peoria, who passed away on January  
5 11, 2015; and

6           WHEREAS, Robert Stecher was born on November 19, 1951 to  
7 Joseph G. and Mary G. (nee Cotter) Stecher; he graduated from  
8 Bergan High School in Peoria; he married Carol Ann Bedell on  
9 December 2, 1972 at Saint Mark Catholic Church in Peoria; and

10           WHEREAS, Robert Stecher joined his father at Stecher's  
11 Automotive Service Inc.; when his father retired in 1987, he  
12 became the owner, making him the third generation to run the  
13 family business; and

14           WHEREAS, Robert Stecher joined the West Peoria Fire  
15 Department in 1970, becoming an emergency medical technician  
16 and working his way up through the ranks; he was a firefighter,  
17 engineer, Captain, and Assistant Chief before becoming Chief of  
18 the department in 1987; he was the longest serving Chief in the  
19 history of the department, before retiring in 2012; that same  
20 year, he was granted Chief Emeritus status by the Illinois Fire  
21 Chiefs Association; he also began serving as a Trustee for the  
22 West Peoria Fire Protection District, a position he held until

1 his passing; he received numerous honors and awards for his  
2 service to his community, including the West Peoria's  
3 Firefighter of the Year Award, the Emergency Medical Technician  
4 of the Year Award, the American Red Cross Heartland Hero Award  
5 (2003), and the Hardees Hometown Hero Award presented by  
6 Illinois Governor Jim Edgar (1994); and

7 WHEREAS, Robert Stecher was a member and officer of  
8 numerous organizations, including the West Peoria  
9 Firefighter's Association, the Illinois Firefighter's  
10 Association, the Peoria Area Fire Chiefs Association, the  
11 Illinois Fire Chiefs Association, the International  
12 Association of Fire Chiefs, the Central Illinois Fire  
13 Investigators Association, the International Association of  
14 Arson Investigators, and the Peoria County Emergency Services  
15 and Disaster Agency; he worked with others to help incorporate  
16 the City of West Peoria in 1993, and he served on the committee  
17 to select the city's first Mayor; and

18 WHEREAS, Robert Stecher was a member of St. Ann Catholic  
19 Church in Peoria; he grew up in Saint Mark Catholic Church and  
20 was a past member of Holy Family Parish; he was passionate  
21 about flying and earned his pilot's license in 1970; and

22 WHEREAS, Robert Stecher was preceded in death by his  
23 parents; his brother, William; and his sister, Patricia Bulfer;

1 and

2 WHEREAS, Robert Stecher is survived by his wife, Carol; his  
3 2 daughters, Melissa (Eric) Siebenthal and Karen Stecher; his  
4 son, Robert (Jennifer Nicole) Stecher, Jr.; his 5  
5 grandchildren, Hadley, Luke, Emma, Ryan, and Alex; his  
6 siblings, Richard (Christine Karl) Stecher, James (Mary  
7 Wikoff) Stecher, Ann (Scott) Peterson, Mark (Kim Denman)  
8 Stecher, and Thomas (Connie Peterson) Stecher; his  
9 brother-in-law, William Bulfer; and several aunts, uncles,  
10 nieces, nephews, great-nieces, and great-nephews; therefore,  
11 be it

12 RESOLVED, BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE  
13 NINETY-NINTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, that we  
14 mourn the passing of Robert Joseph "Bob" Stecher, and extend  
15 our sincere condolences to his family, friends, and all who  
16 knew and loved him; and be it further

17 RESOLVED, That a suitable copy of this resolution be  
18 presented to the family of Robert Stecher as an expression of  
19 our deepest sympathy.