



HR0829

LRB099 15020 GRL 39221 r

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HOUSE RESOLUTION

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WHEREAS, The members of the Illinois House of Representatives are saddened to learn of the death of Roland Charles Baker; and

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WHEREAS, Roland Baker was born in Chicago and attended St. Anselm School until the age of 13, when his family relocated to Los Angeles, California; he earned his Masters of Business Administration degree from the University of Southern California; he also served in the United States Marine Corps Reserve; and

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WHEREAS, Roland Baker had a long and distinguished career in the life insurance and related financial services industries and served on many board positions; he began his career at Beneficial Standard Life Insurance Company in Los Angeles before serving at Colonial Penn Group as executive vice president and director of Colonial Penn Insurance, Colonial Penn Franklin Insurance, and Colonial Penn Life Insurance Companies; he served as chairman, president, and CEO of the Signature Group in Schaumburg and was chairman and CEO of Old American Insurance Company, a life and health insurer; he was the founder and CEO of Baker, Rakich, Shipley, & Politzer, consultants to the financial services industry; prior to his retirement, he served as CEO of First Penn Pacific Life

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1 Insurance Company, a subsidiary of Lincoln Financial Group, in
2 Oakbrook Terrace and Schaumburg; and

3 WHEREAS, Throughout his life, Roland Baker proudly
4 maintained his California certified public accountant license;
5 he was a Chartered Life Underwriter and a Fellow of the Life
6 Insurance Management Institute; he approached his business
7 career with passion and purpose and developed many close and
8 loyal friendships through his work; and

9 WHEREAS, Roland Baker was a member of the board of the
10 Court Theater at the University of Chicago; throughout the
11 years, he provided significant support and guidance as a board
12 member of numerous other organizations, including the
13 Challenger Boys & Girls Club (Los Angeles), of which he was a
14 founder, the United Way of Chicago, Chicago Youth Centers, and
15 the Evans Scholarship Foundation; and

16 WHEREAS, Roland Baker was enormously proud of his family
17 and enjoyed family gatherings and celebrations; he was a
18 longtime member of Beverly Country Club in Chicago, where he
19 spent many happy days on the golf course with his good friends;
20 in retirement, he made many good friends in Spanish classes at
21 the Instituto Cervantes and in the Hyde Park neighborhood; and

22 WHEREAS, Roland Baker enjoyed blues and classic jazz music,

1 the occasional good cigar and glass of Scotch whiskey, and
2 holiday gatherings with his family and neighbors; and

3 WHEREAS, Roland Baker is survived by his wife, Helen Norris
4 Baker; his children, Scott Carrington Baker, Stephen
5 Christopher Baker, and Stefanie Celeste Baker Rome (Kevin); his
6 stepson, Dustin J. Burke (Rebecca); his stepdaughter, Colleen
7 K. Walston (John); his brother, William A. Baker (Pearl); his
8 grandchildren, Kevin D. Rome, III, Kendel Alyse Carrington
9 Rome, Burke S. Walston, Elliot A. Walston, and Henry J. Burke;
10 his niece, Arlyce Baker Chandler (Robert); his nephew, William
11 Baker, Jr.; his great niece, Alexa Brianne Chandler; and his
12 former wife, Addie Scott Baker; and

13 WHEREAS, Roland Baker's friends and family will fondly
14 remember a kind-hearted, gentle, patient, refined, and
15 intelligent man of many talents that include acting, golf,
16 politics, and business and remember that his great works live
17 on; therefore, be it

18 RESOLVED, BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE
19 NINETY-NINTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, that we
20 mourn the death of Roland Charles Baker and extend our sincere
21 condolences to his family, friends and all those whose lives
22 were impacted by him; and be it further

1 RESOLVED, That a suitable copy of this resolution be
2 presented to the family of Roland Baker as an expression of our
3 deepest sympathy.