



SR0239

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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 Verlyn "Swede" Roskam, who passed away on March 13, 2015; and

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WHEREAS, Verlyn Roskam was born in Iowa Falls, Iowa; he graduated from Wentworth Military Academy in Lexington, Missouri and from Knox College in 1951; he served as a company commander in the Korean War and was honored by the government of Korea at a 50th anniversary ceremony; for more than 50 years, the Roskams have made their home in the Glen Ellyn and Wheaton areas; and

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WHEREAS, On July 26, 1952, Verlyn Roskam married the love of his life, Martha Lou Jacobsen, in Oak Park; and

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WHEREAS, Verlyn Roskam worked full-time as an international salesman for the sorbent minerals company Oil-Dri Corp. of America until last year at the age of 84 - a career that spanned 45 years; and

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WHEREAS, Verlyn Roskam formed Educational Assistance Limited, an organization that uses surplus inventory from colleges and universities and contributions from outside donors to fund scholarships and supplies for college students

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1 who could not otherwise afford to go; Educational Assistance
2 Limited has raised millions of dollars and helped more than
3 10,000 students nationwide; and

4 WHEREAS, Verlyn Roskam was an active member of the Glen
5 Ellyn Evangelical Covenant Church; and

6 WHEREAS, Verlyn Roskam was known for sponsoring trips
7 overseas for young people within his church or paying for the
8 education of others who were once in his situation; in 2002, on
9 a business trip in Ho Chi Minh City, Vietnam, his wife, Martha,
10 noticed a basket of military dog tags; they purchased all 37 of
11 them and hired a private investigator to track down the
12 families of the 37 men; they spent the next decade personally
13 delivering them to each family they could find; and

14 WHEREAS, Although not political themselves, Verlyn Roskam
15 and his wife supported their son, Peter, in his political
16 aspirations - often seen campaigning and participating in
17 parades on their son's behalf; and

18 WHEREAS, Verlyn Roskam is survived by his wife of 62 years,
19 Martha (nee Jacobsen) Roskam; his 5 children, Stephen
20 (Chandler), Dick (Phyllis), Sarah, U.S. Representative Peter
21 (Elizabeth), and Maribeth (Jon Coote); and his 16
22 grandchildren, Gracey Roskam, Frankie Roskam, Steve Roskam, AJ

1 Roskam, Jacob Roskam, Mica Roskam, Hilary Roskam, Jon Roskam,
2 Lilly Roskam, Bryan Simpson, Hope Simpson, Jayne Averitt, Ian
3 Coote, Peter Coote, Jonathan Coote, Jr., and Philip Coote;
4 therefore, be it

5 RESOLVED, BY THE SENATE OF THE NINETY-NINTH GENERAL
6 ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, that we mourn the passing of
7 Verlyn "Swede" Roskam, and extend our sincere condolences to
8 his family, friends, and all who knew and loved him; and be it
9 further

10 RESOLVED, That a suitable copy of this resolution be
11 presented to the family of Verlyn Roskam as an expression of
12 our deepest sympathy.