



SR1518

LRB099 20533 GRL 45075 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 Merle C. Bassett, who passed away on February 6, 2016; and

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WHEREAS, Merle Bassett was born on November 9, 1928 in Fosterburg; his parents were Clyde H. and Nellie E. (nee Schmidt) Bassett; he married Norine Burk on March 28, 1948 at St. John's United Church of Christ in Wood River; and

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WHEREAS, Merle Bassett attended Alton High School for two years and then graduated from East Alton Wood River High School in 1946; he attended DePauw University for one and a half years and graduated from Washington University in 1950; he later graduated from Washington University Law School in 1952, where he was awarded the Order of COIF and graduated second in his class; and

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WHEREAS, Merle Bassett was an attorney at Bassett Law Office in Wood River for 64 years; he was a former special Assistant Attorney General for the State of Illinois from 1965 to 1999, where he helped condemn the property for Lewis and Clark Bridge; he was an Assistant State's Attorney from 1956 to 1964 under Dick Mudge; he was the attorney in the prosecution of James Earl Ray in a burglary charge; he was also a Khoury

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1 League coach for many years, an avid golfer and trap shooter,
2 and a member of Lockhaven Country Club; and

3 WHEREAS, Throughout his career, Merle Bassett represented
4 the City of Wood River, the Southwest Illinois Development
5 Corporation, the Village of Hartford, the Rosewood Heights
6 Sanitary District, Wood River Township, Brighton Township, the
7 Village of Roxana, the Village of Bethalto, Foster Township,
8 and the Wood River Drainage and Levy District; and

9 WHEREAS, Merle Bassett was a member of St. John's United
10 Church of Christ in Wood River, where he taught the mixed adult
11 Sunday School Class for 19 years with Oliver Honke; he was a
12 50-year member of the Wood River Masonic Lodge #1062, where he
13 was a 32nd Degree Mason; he was a Demolay and a Shriner; he was
14 a member of the Wood River Jaycees and chairman of the March of
15 Dimes; he served as the president of the Airport Board for the
16 State of Illinois; he was also a member of the American Bar
17 Association and the Bar Associations of Illinois, Missouri, and
18 Madison County, and president of Toastmasters and the East
19 Alton Wood River High School Foundation Board; and

20 WHEREAS, Merle Bassett was a member of the East Alton Wood
21 River High School Hall of Fame in the inaugural class of 2009;
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1 WHEREAS, Merle Bassett was preceded in death by his
2 parents; his stepmother, Velma Bassett; his stepfather,
3 Darrell Finley; his son, Gerald W. Bassett; and his grandson,
4 Jerrad C. Bassett; and

5 WHEREAS, Merle Bassett is survived by his wife, Norine; his
6 daughters and sons-in-law, Laura Bassett Friedman and Eric,
7 Lynn Bassett and Tommy House, and Rene and Tracy Butler; his
8 grandchildren and their spouses, Marina Bassett, Sasha
9 Bassett, Kaleigh (Andrew) Rider, Kyle (Val) Bassett, Madison
10 Friedman, Tyler Friedman, Kathryn Butler, and Nathaniel
11 Butler; his great-grandchildren, Reygan and Jackson; and his
12 special friends, Beverly Pohlman, Jeannine Burk, Jennifer and
13 Matt Stimac, Matt Barton, Kevin and the staff of Camp Drug
14 Store, and the Rosewood Heights Volunteer Fire Department;
15 therefore, be it

16 RESOLVED, BY THE SENATE OF THE NINETY-NINTH GENERAL
17 ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, that we, along with his
18 family and friends, mourn the passing of Merle C. Bassett; and
19 be it further

20 RESOLVED, That a suitable copy of this resolution be
21 presented to the family of Merle Bassett as an expression of
22 our sympathy.