



SR2428

LRB099 22396 MST 49814 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 Gene Vanderport of Champaign and Danville, who passed away on June 28, 2016, at the age of 66; and

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WHEREAS, Gene Vanderport graduated from the University of Illinois with a degree in political science; and

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WHEREAS, Gene Vanderport joined his first union at the age of 15 while playing rock and roll; he was a card-carrying "professional revolutionary" and spent his entire career working for labor unions on local and national levels; he was a member of the American Federation of Musicians Local 90; and

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WHEREAS, In the mid 1980s, Gene Vanderport moved from the Veterans Administration in Danville, where he was the local President, to being the national director of American Federation of Government Employees in Washington, D.C.; in the 1990s, he returned to Danville and joined the Illinois Education Association; he was coordinator of the Living Wage Association of Champaign and was successful in getting living wage policies adopted in the City of Urbana and Champaign County; he and his wife, Germaine Light, were very active in the Central Illinois Jobs with Justice Coalition; and

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1 WHEREAS, Gene Vanderport's most prized possession was the
2 family land near the Vermilion River, east of Danville, and the
3 family cemetery across the river; therefore, be it

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

9 RESOLVED, That a suitable copy of this resolution be
10 presented to the family of Gene Vanderport as an expression of
11 our deepest sympathy.