



SR1375

LRB100 20344 MST 35631 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 Arthur Velasquez of North Aurora, who passed away on January 27, 2017; and

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WHEREAS, Arthur Velasquez was born in Lockhart, Texas on December 30, 1934 and attended segregated schools with other Latino students; and

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WHEREAS, As a young boy, Arthur Velasquez worked in his father's mechanic shop and learned that he was very skilled with his hands, which would play a role in his later life; and

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WHEREAS, Arthur Velasquez became involved in politics at a young age and served on committees with his then-Congressman Lyndon Johnson; and

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WHEREAS, In 1956, Arthur Velasquez met and married his wife, Alice; they were married for 41 years until her passing in 1997; and

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WHEREAS, Arthur Velasquez became a carpenter and joined the United Brotherhood of Carpenters (UBC); in 1966, he was appointed as an organizer for the UBC and later became a representative for the International President of the UBC,

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1 where he worked in several states, Puerto Rico, and the
2 Caribbean; and

3 WHEREAS, In 1973, Arthur Velasquez's increased
4 responsibilities with the carpenters union allowed him to move
5 his family to North Aurora; and

6 WHEREAS, Arthur Velasquez was a true community servant and
7 served on the boards of many community organizations in Aurora,
8 including the United Way, the Urban League, the Hispanic
9 Heritage Advisory Board, Family Counseling Service, Study
10 Circles, Friends of Seniors, and Centro Panamericano; and

11 WHEREAS, Arthur Velasquez was heavily involved in
12 Democratic politics in the Aurora area, having been a mentor
13 for many elected officials, whether they were congressmen or
14 township trustees; and

15 WHEREAS, Arthur Velasquez was a powerful voice for
16 organized labor in the Aurora area; and

17 WHEREAS, Arthur Velasquez was a passionate advocate for
18 education; after growing up in segregated schools, he fought
19 for the right of all students to receive a quality education
20 and saw it as a great equalizer; and

1 WHEREAS, Arthur Velasquez served as president of League of
2 United Latin American Citizens Council (LULAC) 5218 and the
3 LULAC Council of the Aurora Foundation, where he raised more
4 than \$200,000 for scholarships for local students; and

5 WHEREAS, The stories of Arthur Velasquez's generosity and
6 kindness in the Aurora community are countless; and

7 WHEREAS, Arthur Velasquez was the proud father of Patty,
8 Valarie, Art, April, Crystal and Timothy; grandfather to Dodi,
9 Jeremy, Christopher, Marcus, Jackie, Mike, Jeff, Amber,
10 Autumn, Anthony, Tyler, and Sean; and great-grandfather to
11 Veronica, Victoria, Mya, Liam, Camden, Saylor, Jack, Will,
12 Brenna, and Jade; therefore, be it

13 RESOLVED, BY THE SENATE OF THE ONE HUNDREDTH GENERAL
14 ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, that we mourn the passing of
15 Arthur Velasquez, and extend our sincere condolences to his
16 family, friends, and all who knew and loved him; and be it
17 further

18 RESOLVED, That a suitable copy of this resolution be
19 presented to the family of Arthur Velasquez as an expression of
20 our deepest sympathy.