



HR0672

LRB103 40087 MST 71615 r

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HOUSE RESOLUTION

2           WHEREAS, The members of the Illinois House of  
3 Representatives are saddened to learn of the death of Dr.  
4 Merrill William George Ottwein, who passed away on March 21,  
5 2024; and

6           WHEREAS, Dr. Ottwein was born to Oscar John and Hilda  
7 (Bardelmeier) Ottwein in Troy on April 24, 1929; he received  
8 degrees in agriculture, agricultural economics, and veterinary  
9 medicine from the University of Illinois; he married Grace  
10 Schmidt at Frieden's United Church of Christ in Troy on  
11 September 2, 1950; and

12           WHEREAS, Dr. Ottwein founded Hawthorne Animal Hospital in  
13 Glen Carbon in 1956 and practiced until 1966 when his family  
14 moved to Honduras to do mission work through the United Church  
15 World Ministries; and

16           WHEREAS, Dr. Ottwein was elected to the Illinois Senate in  
17 1969, serving the 53rd Senate District; after serving for one  
18 term, he became involved with developing communities and  
19 founded his company, Homebuyer's Relocation Services, with his  
20 son, Paul; he also served on numerous industry-related boards  
21 and committees; and

1           WHEREAS, Dr. Ottwein's first love was his family, but he  
2 also enjoyed singing in various barbershop and vocal groups,  
3 playing his trombone in community bands and small ensembles,  
4 and researching family history; and

5           WHEREAS, Dr. Ottwein was preceded in death by his parents  
6 and his grandson, Dr. Brent Leh; and

7           WHEREAS, Dr. Ottwein is survived by his wife of 73 years,  
8 Grace Ottwein; his sister, Audrey Deeren; his children, Ann  
9 (Michael) Culp, Amy (Keith) Zagar, Paul (Amber) Ottwein, and  
10 Emily Ottwein; his grandchildren and great-grandchildren, John  
11 Ottwein and Nicole DeVerter-Ottwein, Adam and Jessica Ottwein  
12 (Annabelle and Oscar), Tyler Ottwein and Emma Pieper, Dakota  
13 Roper and fiancé Tyler Orgler, Richard and Laura Leh (Devyn),  
14 Matthew and Catherine Zagar (Jane and Dylan), Patrick Zagar,  
15 Benjamin Ottwein, Bethany and Eric Paulsen (Emmet), Benjamin  
16 and Megan Culp (Julia, Wesley, Owen), Nathan and Pamela Culp  
17 (Clayton), and Gregory and Victoria Culp (Brentleigh and  
18 Elisabeth); and numerous cousins, nieces, and nephews;  
19 therefore, be it

20           RESOLVED, BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE  
21 HUNDRED THIRD GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, that  
22 we mourn the passing of Dr. Merrill William George Ottwein and  
23 extend our sincere condolences to his family, friends, and all

1 who knew and loved him; and be it further

2       RESOLVED, That a suitable copy of this resolution be  
3 presented to the family of Dr. Ottwein as an expression of our  
4 deepest sympathy.