



SR0711

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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 Charles Lohman Dancey of Pekin, who passed away on January 9, 2024; and

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WHEREAS, Charles Dancey was born to Albert Duane and Bertha (Lohman) Dancey in Pekin on November 28, 1916; he earned a degree in journalism from the University of Illinois in 1938; during his studies, he worked as a research assistant in the Physiology department throughout the school year and as an assistant manager at the Mineral Springs Park swimming pool in the summer; he married Nina Evelyn Manker at Grace United Methodist Church in Pekin on December 10, 1944; and

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WHEREAS, Between 1938 and 1941, Charles Dancey worked as a Pekin correspondent for the Peoria Star, a press agent for the State of Illinois in Springfield, and as a reporter covering the federal court for the Peoria Journal; and

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WHEREAS, Charles Dancey joined the U.S. Marine Corps in February 1941, serving with tactical commands from second lieutenant to major in the South Pacific for two years and 11 months; he was then stationed as director of the Combat Machine Gun School at Camp Lejeune, North Carolina; and

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1 WHEREAS, From 1946 to 1950, Charles Dancey worked as a
2 Pekin/Tazewell County correspondent for Peoria Newspapers,
3 Inc. and as a newscaster for the WSIV Peoria radio station; he
4 also served as a member of the Peoria City Council,
5 commissioner of the police and fire departments, state
6 commandant of the Marine Corps League in Illinois, and
7 commander of Charlie Company, the Marine Corps Reserve Unit
8 based in the Peoria area; and

9 WHEREAS, Charles Dancey and the Charlie Company were
10 called to active duty in 1950; he joined the headquarters
11 staff at the Parris Island Recruit Depot, where he was
12 assigned to handle the integration of the armed forces into
13 the new Defense Department and the initial racial integration;
14 he was promoted to lieutenant colonel in 1951; after his
15 reservist tour had ended, he was called to participate in a
16 monthlong session at the Naval War College in 1952 and at the
17 National War College in 1959; he was promoted to colonel in
18 1959; and

19 WHEREAS, Charles Dancey returned to his journalism career
20 in 1952, working at the copy desk and covering the State
21 legislature when it was in session; after the two Peoria
22 newspapers merged into the Peoria Journal Star, he worked as
23 an assistant to the publisher, the supervisor of the editorial
24 and mechanical departments, and as an editor; he retired in

1 1986 while being retained as a consultant and serving on the
2 board of directors of the Peoria Journal Star into the 1990s;
3 and

4 WHEREAS, Charles Dancey was a member of the Inter-American
5 Press Association, also known as Sociedad Interamericana de
6 Prensa, where he served as a member of the board of directors
7 and the executive board, as vice-president of the Freedom of
8 the Press Committee, and as chairman of the Conclusions
9 Committee; he also served as a juror for the Pulitzer Prize in
10 the 1970s and was a board member of the B'nai B'rith Covenant
11 House, the St. Francis Free Clinic, and the Dirksen
12 Congressional Research Center; and

13 WHEREAS, Charles Dancey was a longstanding member of Grace
14 United Methodist Church in Pekin, Empire Lodge 126, and the
15 Ancient Free & Accepted Masons in Pekin; and

16 WHEREAS, Charles Dancey was preceded in death by his wife;
17 his parents; his son, Richard Dancey; his daughter-in-law,
18 Tina Dancey; his grandson, Jacob Dancey; three brothers; and
19 two sisters; and

20 WHEREAS, Charles Dancey is survived by his sons, Burt
21 Dancey and Clinton (Debbie) Dancey; his daughter-in-law,
22 Margaret Dancey; his grandchildren, Zedford (Kyong) Dancey,

1 Sarah Dancey, Silas (Kristen) Dancey, Rebekah Dancey, Amos
2 (Mara) Dancey, Abigail (Nathaniel Williams) Dancey, Elias
3 (Bethany) Dancey, Emily (Jordan) Head, and Ethan (Malissa)
4 Dancey; his granddaughter-in-law, Lia Dancey; 18
5 great-grandchildren; and one great-great-granddaughter;
6 therefore, be it

7 RESOLVED, BY THE SENATE OF THE ONE HUNDRED THIRD GENERAL
8 ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, that we mourn the passing of
9 Charles Lohman Dancey and extend our sincere condolences to
10 his family, friends, and all who knew and loved him; and be it
11 further

12 RESOLVED, That a suitable copy of this resolution be
13 presented to the family of Charles Dancey as an expression of
14 our deepest sympathy.