



1 SENATE RESOLUTION

2 WHEREAS, The members of the Senate of the State of Illinois  
3 learned with regret of the death of Warren Billhartz of  
4 Collinsville on Monday, August 21, 2006; and

5 WHEREAS, He was born on January 3, 1927, in Centralia; he  
6 attended public schools in New Baden before joining the U.S.  
7 Merchant Marines as a crew member; and

8 WHEREAS, A veteran of two dozen crossings of the North  
9 Atlantic, at age twenty, he received his U.S. Coast Guard  
10 certificate of registry as a staff officer; he also holds the  
11 Atlantic War Zone bar; and

12 WHEREAS, He later returned to school and graduated from  
13 Illinois College and Washington University Law School; during  
14 law school and for three years after his graduation, he was  
15 associated with the law firm of Johnson & Johnson in  
16 Belleville; he was a licensed attorney in Illinois and  
17 Missouri; and

18 WHEREAS, A former Assistant Attorney General of the State  
19 of Illinois, Mr. Billhartz was elected to three consecutive  
20 terms in the Illinois General Assembly as Representative from  
21 the old 42nd and 55th districts; he served in the Illinois  
22 House until 1960, when he did not seek re-election; and

23 WHEREAS, He was a charter member and first president of the  
24 Clinton County Board of School Trustees; he was a second  
25 generation banker and had been in banking since 1954; for 21  
26 years, he was with First National Bank of Collinsville, as  
27 President and then Chairman; he was Chairman and principal  
28 stockholder of that bank when it was bought by United Missouri  
29 Bank in 1987; and

1           WHEREAS, Mr. Billhartz was the Founder, Chairman, and  
2 principal stockholder of FCB Banks; his generous donations and  
3 gifts were responsible for the O.W. Billhartz Civic Center in  
4 New Baden, Lehrter Community Park in Albers, the statue at the  
5 Police Station, and the future home of the Billhartz Animal  
6 Shelter in Collinsville, as well as the Illinois College  
7 Student Investment Fund; many other charitable organizations  
8 benefited from his anonymous donations; and

9           WHEREAS, The passing of Warren Billhartz has been deeply  
10 felt by many, especially his wife, Marcia Anne, nee Allan,  
11 Billhartz, whom he married September 28, 1979, in Kauai, Hawaii;  
12 his son, Ward (Chris) Billhartz; his daughters, Jan Billhartz,  
13 Jean T. Billhartz, and Susan Zavaglia; his sister, Eileen  
14 (Olin) Hoffmann; his grandchildren, Garrett, Shane, and Jordan  
15 Zavaglia, Taylor Singleton, Chandler Lotridge, Danielle and  
16 Rachel Billhartz, and McCall and Caden Sheetz; his loving pet,  
17 Shady Francis; and his numerous nieces, nephews, great-nieces,  
18 and great-nephews; he was preceded in death by parents, Oliver  
19 W. and Marie, nee Engelhart, Billhartz; therefore, be it

20           RESOLVED, BY THE SENATE OF THE NINETY-FOURTH GENERAL  
21 ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, that we mourn the passing of  
22 Warren Billhartz, and we extend our sincere condolences to his  
23 family, his friends, and all who knew and loved him; and be it  
24 further

25           RESOLVED, That a suitable copy of this resolution be  
26 presented to his family as an expression of our deepest  
27 sympathy.