



HR0639

LRB099 13043 MST 36920 r

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HOUSE RESOLUTION

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WHEREAS, The members of the Illinois House of Representatives are saddened to learn of the death of Gerald J. "Jerry" Roper, who passed away on June 28, 2015; and

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WHEREAS, Jerry Roper was born in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania's blue-collar Spring Garden neighborhood, the son of John and Jessie Roper; after serving his country in the United States Army, he worked his way up in the hospitality industry; and

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WHEREAS, Jerry Roper served in a variety of different roles in hospitality administration, including, marketing director for Holiday Inns and for Sheraton hotels; a director of trade shows for the National Restaurant Association; President of the Rosemont O'Hare Convention and Visitors Bureau, and eventually President of the Chicago Convention and Visitors Bureau; and

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WHEREAS, Jerry Roper served as President of the Chicagoland Chamber of Commerce from 1993 to 2013, and under his strong leadership, it grew to be one of the most respected and renowned business organizations in the country, and he also lead it to a 5-star accreditation from the U.S. Chamber of Commerce; and

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1 WHEREAS, Jerry Roper was extensively involved with many
2 civic and local organizations, has been honored with a Lifetime
3 Achievement Award as a founding member of Chicago Gateway
4 Green, and was honored with January 25, 2012 being named as
5 "Jerry Roper Day" in Chicago; and

6 WHEREAS, Jerry Roper was a true champion for the city of
7 Chicago and for every business and tourism initiative in the
8 Chicago area, and he will be remembered as a vibrant and
9 tenacious leader with a lasting impact throughout Illinois; and

10 WHEREAS, Jerry Roper was the heartbeat of Chicago and
11 through his selfless energy, commitment to innovation and new
12 ideas, tireless work as an advocate, and courage in the face of
13 huge obstacles, he was the person that all strive to be; and

14 WHEREAS, Jerry Roper is survived by his wife, Carol Buseman
15 Roper; son, Jerry Roper, Jr.; daughter, Tani Sison; brother,
16 Donald Andrezjwski; and 2 grandchildren, Grace and Evan;
17 therefore, be it

18 RESOLVED, BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE
19 NINETY-NINTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, that we
20 mourn the passing of Gerald J. "Jerry" Roper, and extend our
21 sincere condolences to his family, friends, and all who knew
22 and loved him; and be it further

1 RESOLVED, That a suitable copy of this resolution be
2 presented to the family of Jerry Roper as an expression of our
3 deepest sympathy.