



HR0995

LRB104 22607 LAW 39054 r

1 HOUSE RESOLUTION

2 WHEREAS, The members of the Illinois House of  
3 Representatives wish to congratulate Alfonso "Al" Quiroz of  
4 Pullman on the occasion of his 90th birthday; and

5 WHEREAS, Al Quiroz, the son of Mexican immigrants Felix  
6 and Elena Rodriguez Quiroz, was born in a third-floor  
7 apartment at 11311 South Langley Avenue in the Pullman  
8 National Historical Park of Chicago on August 2, 1936; he was  
9 raised in the company town where generations of his extended  
10 family lived and worked; he attended Holy Rosary School,  
11 Pullman School, and Chicago Vocational High School; he married  
12 Marilyn Gartelmann, a fellow lifelong Pullman resident, in  
13 1964, and they raised their family in the Pullman  
14 neighborhood; and

15 WHEREAS, Al Quiroz, at the age of 23 in 1959, was searching  
16 for work when a chance encounter at Pullman's Market Hall  
17 changed the course of his life; after attending a union  
18 meeting, he and his brother, Ray, were approached by a labor  
19 leader who asked if they wanted jobs at Pullman-Standard; soon  
20 afterward, he and his brother applied for work there, the  
21 beginning of their respective careers; and

22 WHEREAS, Despite entering the Pullman-Standard factory

1 with no formal trade experience, Al Quiroz quickly mastered  
2 the skills needed to build railcars; his workday began before  
3 dawn as he reported to the factory before his 7:00 a.m. start  
4 time, joining hundreds of skilled craftsmen who built  
5 passenger railcars for customers across North America; he  
6 spent most of the day solving problems, sharing knowledge, and  
7 taking pride in producing quality work with his colleagues;  
8 and

9 WHEREAS, Al Quiroz began his career installing heater  
10 grilles and aluminum luggage racks before becoming a  
11 specialist in railroad car doors; he installed pocket doors,  
12 swinging doors, entrance doors, cabinet doors, and end doors,  
13 earning the nickname "End Door Al" from his fellow workers;  
14 his nickname became so well known that he painted it on his  
15 work shirt, and coworkers regularly sought his advice whenever  
16 a door needed adjustment or repair; and

17 WHEREAS, Al Quiroz worked in several departments over the  
18 course of his 22-year career at Pullman-Standard, including  
19 fabrication, where he operated punch presses and other  
20 machinery used to manufacture railcar parts; noted for his  
21 craftsmanship and attention to detail, he was frequently  
22 called to the shipping tracks to solve problems on completed  
23 railcars before delivery; he also witnessed industry safety  
24 standards evolve from requiring steel-toed shoes and safety

1 glasses to the mandatory use of hard hats throughout the  
2 factory; further, he established a tradition of quietly  
3 placing pennies behind the doors of certain passenger railcars  
4 before they were completed to serve as good luck charms and to  
5 symbolize the pride, care, and personal connection that  
6 Pullman-Standard workers invested in every railcar they built;  
7 and

8 WHEREAS, Al Quiroz proudly served Pullman-Standard, and he  
9 believes preserving the stories of its workers is essential in  
10 order for future generations to understand the skill,  
11 dedication, and adaptability that was required to build the  
12 passenger railcars that connected North America; and

13 WHEREAS, Al Quiroz will celebrate his 90th birthday on  
14 August 2, 2026; therefore, be it

15 RESOLVED, BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE  
16 HUNDRED FOURTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, that  
17 we congratulate Alfonso "Al" Quiroz on celebrating his 90th  
18 birthday; and be it further

19 RESOLVED, That a suitable copy of this resolution be  
20 presented to Al Quiroz as an expression of our esteem and  
21 respect.