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LRB104 15293 ECR 28447 r

1 SENATE RESOLUTION

2 WHEREAS, The members of the Illinois Senate are saddened
3 to learn of the death of Brigadier General Richard E.
4 Northern, Illinois National Guard (Ret.), who passed away on
5 September 2, 2025; and

6 WHEREAS, BG Northern was born to Harold Perry and Wilma
7 Northern in Quincy on September 1, 1927; he graduated from
8 Quincy Senior High School; he earned a Bachelor of
9 Administration in Business and Accounting from Gem City
10 Business College in Quincy; he graduated from several military
11 schools, including the Chemical, Biological and Radiological
12 School in Camp Gifu, Japan, the Aberdeen Proving Grounds,
13 Maryland, where he undertook Atomic Weapons Training, the
14 Officer Basic Course, the Officer Advance Course, and the
15 Ordnance Field Grade Course, and the Industrial College of the
16 United States Armed Forces/U.S. Army War College, and he
17 earned credit hours in the U.S. Army Medical Service Corps and
18 the Selective Service System; and

19 WHEREAS, BG Northern enlisted in the Illinois National
20 Guard on June 23, 1948; he served as a sergeant of the 126th
21 Service and Supply Company, which was sent to Korea in 1952,
22 where he was assigned to the 314th Ammunition Group; after the
23 Korean War, he was commissioned as a second lieutenant in the

1 Medical Service Corps in 1955, serving in the Medical Company,
2 130th Infantry Regiment until 1958; he then re-branched to the
3 Ordnance Corps and was assigned as executive officer of the
4 126th Ordnance Company before being promoted company
5 commander, serving in that unit until 1965; during the Vietnam
6 War, he was responsible for training the 126th Service and
7 Supply Company and the 128th Service and Supply Detachment; he
8 was transferred as a maintenance officer to the 32D Ordnance
9 Battalion, and he was later promoted to major, holding the
10 position of battalion executive officer; and

11 WHEREAS, BG Northern transferred to the Illinois State
12 Headquarters on January 1, 1968, where he was assigned to the
13 Selective Service Section; he was promoted to lieutenant
14 colonel on May 19, 1971, chief of the National Guard Selective
15 Section on October 1, 1976, and colonel on June 16, 1977; he
16 was officially appointed as director of the Illinois State
17 Selective Service System on November 15, 1977, overseeing
18 three detachments and 15 Reserve Force Officers and being
19 responsible for the health and readiness of the State during
20 peacetime and in the event of draft mobilization; he served in
21 the Illinois National Guard for 39 years, retiring with the
22 rank of brigadier general in 1987; he continued serving as a
23 federal employee for an additional 28 years, retiring on June
24 23, 2015; and

1 WHEREAS, BG Northern was a key contributor to the City of
2 Quincy, Adams County, and the State of Illinois; he served as
3 administrator of the Illinois Veterans Home in Quincy (IVHQ)
4 for 24 years and as chief of its security for seven years; as
5 administrator, he oversaw construction of the All Faiths
6 Chapel and Eternal Flame, the former Kent Infirmary of Lake
7 Illinois, Koch's Garage, the Illinois American Veterans
8 Pavilion, and the American Legion Recreational Pavilion; his
9 duties also included ensuring the placement of several
10 memorials, including the Century Circle Memorial, the Memorial
11 Fountain, the Vietnam Memorial, the Korean Memorial, the
12 Shirlee Northern Memorial Garden, the Memorial for Korean
13 Medal of Honor winner CPL Lester Hammond Jr., and the World War
14 II Honor Roll Memorial, as well as directing the
15 rehabilitation and repurposing of the former Richard E.
16 Northern Guest House, the Illinois Veterans Home Library, and
17 the All Wars Museum; and

18 WHEREAS, BG Northern became active in politics after
19 returning from the Korean War; he was elected as a Republican
20 precinct committeeman, serving for 67 years, and as chairman
21 of the Adams County Republican Party, serving for 37 years; he
22 led several state and congressional campaigns, attended two
23 Republican National Conventions as a delegate, and served as
24 chairman of the Illinois State Republican Party; he also
25 served as a mentor and an advocate to many candidates and

1 elected officials for state, county, and city office; and

2 WHEREAS, BG Northern owned and operated the real estate
3 company, Northern Realty, for 52 years; he brokered in the
4 states of Illinois, Iowa, Missouri, and Texas, and some of his
5 most successful accomplishments included owning and operating
6 the properties of Wesley and Betty Hochgraber, Bayview
7 Storage, Riverview Storage, Franklin Square, and the Old
8 Quincy National Guard Armory; he also sold property to the
9 Salvation Army, known today as the Salvation Army Ray & Joan
10 Kroc Corps Community Center; and

11 WHEREAS, BG Northern was a life member of the Veterans of
12 Foreign Wars, American Veterans, Disabled American Veterans,
13 the Elks, the Reserve Officers Association, the National Guard
14 Association of the United States, the National Guard
15 Association of Illinois, the Korean War Veterans Association,
16 and the American Legion, serving as a member and past
17 commander of American Legion Post #37; he was a member of the
18 Quincy Lodge, the Quincy Consistory, the Quincy Shrine Club,
19 the Shrine Temple, and the Illinois State Police Association;
20 he was also a 33rd Degree Mason and served as president of the
21 Quincy Jaycees, national director of the United States
22 Jaycees, president of the National Association of State
23 Veterans Homes, and fund chairman of the local Red Cross,
24 Community Chest, and Cancer Fund; and

1 WHEREAS, BG Northern received many awards for his military
2 service, including the Meritorious Service Medal, the Overseas
3 Service Ribbon, the Army Service Ribbon, the Army Reserve
4 Component Achievement Medal, an Armed Forces Reserve Medal
5 Republic of Korea Presidential Citation, a Meritorious Unit
6 Commendation, the Army Commendation Medal with three Oak Leaf
7 Clusters, the Korean Service Medal with three Bronze Stars,
8 the United Nations Service Medal, the Selective Service System
9 Exceptional Service Award, the Illinois Distinguished Service
10 Medal, the Good Conduct Medal, the National Guard Long and
11 Honorable Service Medal, the National Guard Perfect Attendance
12 Medal, and the Illinois State Active Duty Medal three times;
13 he was also named Executive of the Year by the Quincy Chamber
14 of Commerce in 1973 and First Illinois Veteran of the Year in
15 2015; and

16 WHEREAS, Northern is survived by his children, Natalie D.
17 (Todd Franklin) Northern and Richard E. "Rick" (Beth Parchim)
18 Northern II; his brother-in-law, Robert F. Niebur; his nephew
19 and niece, Brett (Cindy) Niebur and Angela (John) Niebur
20 McGrath; three great-nephews and one great-niece; and four
21 great-great-nephews and one great-great-niece; therefore, be
22 it

23 RESOLVED, BY THE SENATE OF THE ONE HUNDRED FOURTH GENERAL

1 ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, that we mourn the passing of
2 Brigadier General Richard E. Northern, Illinois National Guard
3 (Ret.) and extend our sincere condolences to his family,
4 friends, and all who knew and loved him; and be it further

5 RESOLVED, That a suitable copy of this resolution be
6 presented to the family of BG Northern as an expression of our
7 deepest sympathy.