



SR0476

LRB104 15898 LAW 29125 r

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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 Ray George Barnes, who passed away on September 13, 2025; and

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WHEREAS, Ray Barnes was born to John "Scotty" Barnes and Marian (Weyhrich) Gould in Green Valley on November 19, 1938; he was a member of the Army Reserve Officers' Training Corps (ROTC); he enlisted in the United States Navy Reserve in December 1958, and he was discharged as a lieutenant in June 1964; he married Jeanine Beasley in Dallas, Texas on January 9, 1960; he then married Joyce (Endicott) Cox in Peoria on December 31, 1976; and

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WHEREAS, Ray Barnes transitioned into civilian life in December 1963, becoming employed in the Information Services General Offices for Caterpillar Tractor Co.; he progressed through several staff and managerial assignments to his final position as manager of Database and Teleprocessing Support; after 33 years, he retired from Caterpillar Inc. in November 1996; during this time, he received his bachelor's degree in business administration and management from Bradley University in May 1976; and

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WHEREAS, Ray Barnes continued his service in the Air

1 National Guard from 1964 to 1982, retiring as a lieutenant  
2 colonel, and the U.S. Air Force Reserve from 1982 to 1990,  
3 retiring as a colonel; he held a number of positions  
4 throughout his military career, including serving as squadron  
5 commander of the 182nd Direct Air Support Center (DASC)  
6 Squadron and the 169th Tactical Air Support Squadron, director  
7 of DASC, an officer of Air Force Operations, and detachment  
8 commander of Aeronautical Systems Division (ASD) Reserve  
9 Program New York and ASD Reserve Program Chicago; and

10 WHEREAS, Ray Barnes held the aeronautical rating of  
11 command pilot, having accumulated nearly 3,000 flying hours in  
12 the A4C Skyhawk, F84, 02A, and 0A37 aircraft; he was named the  
13 first centurion on the USS Kitty Hawk for being the first pilot  
14 to have 100 successful jet landings or "traps"; his military  
15 decorations and awards included the Joint Service Commendation  
16 Medal and the Air Force Commendation Medal; and

17 WHEREAS, Ray Barnes was a man of deep faith, and he  
18 possessed a steadfast love for his church, St. John's  
19 Evangelical Lutheran Church in Pekin, which he was always  
20 eager to assist wherever he was needed, from treasurer to  
21 trustee; he was a passionate student of the Bible and lived out  
22 his faith with humility and dedication; and

23 WHEREAS, Ray Barnes was devoted to his family, and he set

1 an extraordinary example of love, selflessness, and wisdom; he  
2 always put the needs of others before his own, providing his  
3 children and grandchildren with quiet strength and unwavering  
4 care; he was the steady voice of reason and encouragement, and  
5 his presence will continue to guide and comfort his family for  
6 generations to come; and

7 WHEREAS, Ray Barnes was preceded in death by his parents  
8 and his brothers, Roy (Joyce) Barnes and Harry Barnes; and

9 WHEREAS, Ray Barnes is survived by his wife of 48 years,  
10 Joyce Barnes; his children, Rhett (Mary) Barnes, Tyler (Misty)  
11 Barnes, Chad (Nancy) Barnes, Darren (Tamra) Barnes, and  
12 Danielle (Ben Fister) Barnes; his stepchildren, Lesa (Kevin)  
13 Little and Deanna (Mike) McCafferty; his brothers, Rex  
14 (Beverly) Gould and Ross (Diane) Gould; 21 grandchildren; 19  
15 great-grandchildren; and one great-great-grandchild;  
16 therefore, be it

17 RESOLVED, BY THE SENATE OF THE ONE HUNDRED FOURTH GENERAL  
18 ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, that we mourn the passing of  
19 Ray George Barnes and extend our sincere condolences to his  
20 family, friends, and all who knew and loved him; and be it  
21 further

22 RESOLVED, That a suitable copy of this resolution be

1 presented to the family of Ray Barnes as an expression of our  
2 deepest sympathy.