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LRB104 16573 ECR 29971 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 Edward John "Ed" Ovca, who passed away on November 7, 2025; and

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WHEREAS, Ed Ovca was born to John and Mary Ovca in Nokomis on August 17, 1930; he graduated from Nokomis High School in 1947; he studied offset lithography at Rankin Trade School in St. Louis, Missouri; he married Eleanor Schneider in 1949; and

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WHEREAS, Ed Ovca began working at Free Press-Progress at the age of 11, starting as a floor sweeper and working his way up to the press room; he purchased the newspaper in partnership with Irene Vandever in 1953; he was subsequently named and served as publisher and editor for the next 30 years until he sold the business and retired; and

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WHEREAS, Ed Ovca served on the Nokomis Chamber of Commerce, the City of Nokomis Council, and the Nokomis Community Unit School District #22 Board; he was also a member of Rotary International for more than 40 years; and

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WHEREAS, Ed Ovca and his wife loved traveling, visiting Italy, Germany, France, Austria, Egypt, Russia, and all of the United States; they also enjoyed listening to St. Louis

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1 Cardinals games on the radio, sharing sandwiches, and playing  
2 card games with their children; and

3 WHEREAS, Ed Ovca was an avid fisherman, known to many as  
4 "Captain Ed", who was a member at Sportsman's Lake for many  
5 years and held a Shelbyville Lake muskie record; and

6 WHEREAS, Ed Ovca made an immeasurable impact on his  
7 community and those around him; he will be remembered for his  
8 civic involvement, his patience, his wisdom, and his  
9 dedication to his family; and

10 WHEREAS, Ed Ovca is survived by his wife of 75 years,  
11 Eleanor Ovca; his children, Edward (Patricia) Ovca Jr.,  
12 Michael Ovca, Eric Ovca, and Kathy (Kevin) DeWerff; five  
13 grandchildren; and one great-grandchild; therefore, be it

14 RESOLVED, BY THE SENATE OF THE ONE HUNDRED FOURTH GENERAL  
15 ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, that we mourn the passing of  
16 Edward John "Ed" Ovca and extend our sincere condolences to  
17 his family, friends, and all who knew and loved him; and be it  
18 further

19 RESOLVED, That a suitable copy of this resolution be  
20 presented to the family of Ed Ovca as an expression of our  
21 deepest sympathy.