



SR0693

LRB104 21293 LAW 36062 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 Milton Dow "Milt" Kelly of Fisher, who passed away on September 22, 2025; and

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WHEREAS, Milt Kelly, the son of the late Floyd and Iva Kelly, was born in Champaign on March 15, 1949; he graduated from Fisher High School; he received his undergraduate and graduate degrees in music at the University of Illinois, where he played the trumpet in multiple student groups; and

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WHEREAS, Milt Kelly began his career in music education in the Armstrong school district before returning to Fisher to lead its music program; he directed every student band in the district as well as the high school vocal ensembles; under his leadership, these programs thrived, regularly ranking among the top five music programs of comparable size in the State; during his more than 25 years in the district, he shaped the lives of countless students, and he treasured those relationships deeply; he was also a member of The Powell Family, a local musical group that performed traditional and contemporary Christian music, and he taught private lessons; and

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WHEREAS, Milt Kelly coached baseball for several decades;

1 he was deeply involved in the local Little League, organized
2 weekend pick-up baseball games during the summer for local
3 children for many years, and taught at baseball camps; he was a
4 leader in the effort to start the baseball program at Fisher
5 High School in the 1990s, and he served as head coach for more
6 than 20 years; he also coached the golf team for several years;
7 he continued coaching in retirement and was a fixture as a
8 substitute teacher until his passing; and

9 WHEREAS, Milt Kelly also worked tirelessly for the Village
10 of Fisher, a place he dearly loved, and sacrificed a great deal
11 over the years to build the local community; he served
12 multiple terms as a member of the Village of Fisher Board of
13 Trustees as well as two stints as Mayor of Fisher, totaling
14 nearly two decades; and

15 WHEREAS, Milt Kelly was deeply devoted to his faith and
16 connected to a variety of churches over the years, being
17 raised at Westside Church in Champaign, helping form Fisher
18 Community Church, and attending CU Church; he served as a
19 pastor, a worship leader, and a spiritual mentor to many, and
20 he led numerous Bible studies; he took his faith seriously,
21 living by example and with integrity; and

22 WHEREAS, Milt Kelly was a true sports fan,
23 enthusiastically supporting the St. Louis Cardinals and the

1 University of Illinois, as well as the Chicago Bears; he loved
2 good food, and he treasured family gatherings over meals at
3 home or restaurants; he enjoyed golfing at least once a month
4 all year round, and after years of playing, he finally
5 achieved a hole-in-one this year; and

6 WHEREAS, Milt Kelly, above all, loved and was dearly loved
7 by his family; he cared for his wife deeply, enjoyed spending
8 time with his sons and bestowing them with his wisdom, and
9 loved watching his grandchildren's events; and

10 WHEREAS, At the time of his passing, Milt Kelly was
11 survived by his wife, Connie; his sons, Ben (Nicole), Jon
12 (Carolyn), and Nate (Jana); five grandchildren; his older
13 brother, Mike; and his nieces, Julie and Lori; therefore, be
14 it

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

20 RESOLVED, That a suitable copy of this resolution be
21 presented to the family of Milt Kelly as an expression of our
22 deepest sympathy.