



SR0719

LRB100 13379 MST 27979 r

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SENATE RESOLUTION

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WHEREAS, The members of the Illinois Senate are saddened to  
3 learn of the death of Charles Lipshitz; and

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WHEREAS, Charles Lipshitz was born in Lodz, Poland; in  
5 1939, the Germans incarcerated the Jewish community in the  
6 ghetto, ending his formal education at five years; in 1942, his  
7 bar mitzvah year, he hid in an attic as the Germans deported  
8 most of the children and elderly from the ghetto; his father  
9 was sent to Auschwitz; in 1944, Charles, along with the rest of  
10 his family, was also sent there when the ghetto was liquidated;  
11 and

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WHEREAS, Charles Lipshitz and his brother survived three  
13 concentration camps, a death march, starvation, and sickness,  
14 to be liberated on April 15, 1945; out of a family numbering  
15 more than 200 people, only his brother and a cousin survived;  
16 and

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WHEREAS, Charles Lipshitz spent the next five years working  
18 in Hanover, Germany; he then moved to Chicago to join his  
19 brother; and

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WHEREAS, Charles Lipshitz married Rene, also an Auschwitz  
21 survivor, in 1952; and

1           WHEREAS, Charles Lipshitz founded Lipshitz Sales and then  
2 R&L Specialty, an industrial linen supply service; and

3           WHEREAS, Charles Lipshitz became active in his community;  
4 he was honored in 1968 by Israel Bonds; he became a leader in  
5 the fight to prevent neo-Nazis from marching in Skokie in 1977;  
6 he chaired the committee to create a Holocaust Memorial in  
7 Skokie, which was dedicated in 1987 on the Skokie Village Green  
8 on land donated by the village and with funds donated by  
9 individuals, synagogues, and the Jewish United Fund; and

10           WHEREAS, Charles Lipshitz dedicated much of his life to  
11 preserving the memory of the Holocaust, its victims, its  
12 survivors, and its lesson; he founded Sheerit HaPleilah  
13 (Remnants of the Destruction), the umbrella organization of  
14 Chicago-area Holocaust survivors groups, which he ran for many  
15 years; in 2008, his family commissioned a Torah and dedicated  
16 it at a local synagogue in memory of his and his wife's  
17 parents, who perished in the Holocaust; and

18           WHEREAS, Charles Lipshitz was predeceased by his wife,  
19 Rene; and

20           WHEREAS, Charles Lipshitz is survived by his children,  
21 Debbie Katz and Leon Lipshitz; many grandchildren; and many

1 great-grandchildren; therefore, be it

2       RESOLVED, BY THE SENATE OF THE ONE HUNDREDTH GENERAL  
3 ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, that we mourn the passing of  
4 Charles Lipshitz, and extend our sincere condolences to his  
5 family, friends, and all who knew and loved him; and be it  
6 further

7       RESOLVED, That a suitable copy of this resolution be  
8 presented to the family of Charles Lipshitz as an expression of  
9 our deepest sympathy.