



SR0435

LRB101 12580 ALS 61009 r

1

SENATE RESOLUTION

2

WHEREAS, The members of the Illinois Senate are saddened to learn of the death of Charles D. "Chuck" Sweeny of Rockford, who passed away on May 20, 2019; and

3

4

5

WHEREAS, Chuck Sweeny was born in Rockford to Fay C. and Winifred M. Daniels Sweeny on October 26, 1948; he graduated from Auburn High School in 1966; he received a bachelor's degree from the University of Illinois at Chicago; he married Cherene Gourley in Rockford on March 3, 1973; and

6

7

8

9

10

WHEREAS, Chuck Sweeny began his career in journalism at the Rockford Register Star in 1984; he specialized in politics and also served as a reporter, columnist, political editor, and, most recently, senior editor; he was the face of the Register Star and gave the newspaper a personality it needed; his columns were must-reads, as he blended information with wit and wisdom; his remarkable memory and encyclopedic knowledge of all things local made him a valuable resource to all journalists; and

11

12

13

14

15

16

17

18

19

WHEREAS, Chuck Sweeny's community advocacy meant that he kept harping on issues until they were resolved; his love for Rockford made him critical of the politicians, developers, and special interest groups who impeded the city's progress; and

20

21

22

1 WHEREAS, Chuck Sweeny was voted best columnist in the
2 Register Star's annual What Rocks reader poll; he was a
3 sought-after speaker by many clubs and organizations and was a
4 frequent debate moderator; he was one of the questioners during
5 the gubernatorial candidates debate between Rod Blagojevich
6 and Jim Ryan; he appeared as a commentator on local television,
7 was a guest on National Public Radio, and was a regular user of
8 Facebook; and

9 WHEREAS, Chuck Sweeny was also a musician; he played
10 electric piano in several bands that performed around the
11 region; he will be remembered as a lifetime journalist,
12 political advocate, and Rockford historian and commentator;
13 and

14 WHEREAS, Chuck Sweeny was preceded in death by his parents;
15 and

16 WHEREAS, Chuck Sweeny is survived by his wife, Cherene; his
17 son, James M.D. Sweeny; his daughter, Stephanie M.M. Sweeny;
18 his sister, Mary (Robert) Douglas; his brothers-in-law,
19 Michael Gourley and Patrick (Cheryl) Gourley; his niece and
20 nephews, William C. Douglas, Emily A. Douglas, Todd Gourley,
21 and Lisa Sanders; and his many other extended family members;
22 therefore, be it

1 RESOLVED, BY THE SENATE OF THE ONE HUNDRED FIRST GENERAL
2 ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, that we mourn the passing of
3 Charles D. "Chuck" Sweeny and extend our sincere condolences to
4 his family, friends, and all who knew and loved him; and be it
5 further

6 RESOLVED, That a suitable copy of this resolution be
7 presented to the family of Chuck Sweeny as an expression of our
8 deepest sympathy.