



SR1011

LRB101 20450 ECR 70009 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 William "Bill" Richard Schnirring of Springfield, who passed away on January 26, 2020; and

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WHEREAS, Bill Schnirring was born to William Robert and Marion Vernor Schnirring in Springfield on March 1, 1929; he attended Springfield Public Schools, and in his youth, he was an active member of Boy Scout Troop #7; he graduated from Springfield High School in 1946; he met his future wife, Mary Traylor Schnirring, in the third grade while attending Hay-Edwards Elementary School; they were married on September 30, 1950; and

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WHEREAS, Bill Schnirring attended the University of Illinois and graduated with a bachelor's degree in business in 1950; he was a member and president of the Alpha Tau Omega Fraternity; following his graduation, he served as a first lieutenant in the United States Army during the Korean Conflict from 1951 to 1952 and was stationed in Thule, Greenland; and

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WHEREAS, Bill Schnirring was Chairman Emeritus of Springfield Electric Supply Company; his formal career there began in 1952 when he joined the family-owned business, which was started by his father, William Robert Schnirring; working

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1 beside his father was one of the highlights of his career; and

2 WHEREAS, Bill Schnirring served the electrical  
3 distribution industry in several key roles over the years,  
4 culminating with a term as chairman of the National Association  
5 of Electrical Distributors in 1979-1980; he was later  
6 recognized as one of the recipients of the industry's highest  
7 national individual honors, the Arthur W. Hooper Award; and

8 WHEREAS, Bill Schnirring's love for his community led to  
9 his efforts to improve life in Springfield; he was recognized  
10 nationally in 1989 as an outstanding volunteer fundraiser and  
11 again in 1994 as Outstanding Philanthropist by the National  
12 Society of Fundraising Executives; in 1998, he was honored with  
13 the Sertoma Service to Mankind Award; and

14 WHEREAS, Bill Schnirring was active on many boards and  
15 committees over the years; his past business and industry work  
16 included service on the boards of First National Bank (U.S.  
17 Bank) and Springfield Credit Bureau and serving as board  
18 chairman of the Greater Springfield Chamber of Commerce, the  
19 Industrial Development Council of Springfield and Sangamon  
20 County, the Memorial Medical Center Foundation, and the  
21 Memorial Medical Center Board; he served on the Illinois State  
22 Chamber of Commerce Board of Directors and helped craft  
23 recommendations for legislative and administrative action as a

1 participant in a White House Small Business Conference; and

2 WHEREAS, Bill Schnirring served many civic, service, and  
3 educational organizations; he served as a trustee of Blackburn  
4 College, director of the American Business Club, a board member  
5 and campaign chairman of the United Way of Central Illinois, a  
6 board member and capitol campaign chairman for Contact  
7 Ministries, a board member of the Vachel Lindsay Home  
8 Association, a member of the Dean's Business Advisory Council  
9 at the University of Illinois at Champaign, and a member of the  
10 Chancellor's Advisory Council at the University of  
11 Illinois-Springfield; he helped to foster the development and  
12 growth of small businesses in central Illinois by serving as a  
13 counselor for the Springfield chapter of SCORE; he was also a  
14 member of the Springfield Parks Foundation, the Springfield Art  
15 Association, Illini Country Club, and the Sangamo Club; and

16 WHEREAS, Bill Schnirring was an elder at Westminster  
17 Presbyterian Church; he was also a member of the Scottish Rite,  
18 the Red Cross of Constantine, the Royal Order of the Jesters,  
19 and a past Potentate of the Ansar Shrine; and

20 WHEREAS, Bill Schnirring received a number of honors,  
21 including the Copley Press First Citizen of Springfield Award  
22 in 1989 and the Lincoln Academy of Illinois Order of Lincoln in  
23 2012, the State's highest award; he was inducted into the

1 Springfield High School Hall of Fame in 2013, and the  
2 auditorium at Springfield High School is named in honor of Bill  
3 Schnirring and his wife, Mary Schnirring, for their support of  
4 the school throughout the years; and

5 WHEREAS, Bill Schnirring had a wonderful sense of humor and  
6 loved being around people; he was personable and gracious to  
7 all he met and was a natural leader and mentor to many  
8 throughout his life; he always looked for ways to help others  
9 and touched many lives with his generous spirit; and

10 WHEREAS, Bill Schnirring enjoyed traveling and spending  
11 winters in Naples, Florida with his wife, Mary; he especially  
12 loved time spent on the Schnirring Farm where he would garden,  
13 host parties, and ride his John Deere gator; he was an avid fan  
14 of the University of Illinois and Springfield High School; and

15 WHEREAS, Bill Schnirring was preceded in death by his  
16 parents, William Robert and Marion Vernor Schnirring, and his  
17 beloved wife, Mary Schnirring, who preceded him in death on  
18 January 12, 2020; and

19 WHEREAS, Bill Schnirring is survived by his two daughters,  
20 Kathy (Randy) Germeraad and Carolyn (Dan) Dungan; four  
21 grandchildren, Scott (Colleen) Germeraad, Carrie (Nick)  
22 Walden, Caitlin (Mark) Simhauser, and Colin Dungan; his five

1 great-grandchildren, Declan Germeraad, Merrin Germeraad,  
2 Verity Germeraad, Isla Germeraad, and Nora Simhauser; his  
3 sister, Marilyn Kennedy; his nephews, Robert and John Kennedy;  
4 his niece, Janice Kennedy Singer; his friend, Don Martin; and  
5 all of his colleagues at Springfield Electric; therefore, be it

6       RESOLVED, BY THE SENATE OF THE ONE HUNDRED FIRST GENERAL  
7 ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, that we mourn the passing of  
8 William "Bill" Richard Schnirring and extend our sincere  
9 condolences to his family, friends, and all who knew and loved  
10 him; and be it further

11       RESOLVED, That a suitable copy of this resolution be  
12 presented to the family of Bill Schnirring as an expression of  
13 our deepest sympathy.