



HR0608

LRB102 23574 ECR 32756 r

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HOUSE RESOLUTION

2 WHEREAS, The members of the Illinois House of
3 Representatives are saddened to learn of the death of
4 Frederick J. "Fred" Steffen of Elgin, who passed away on
5 December 25, 2021; and

6 WHEREAS, Fred Steffen was born to Rose and Ezra Steffen in
7 Elgin on August 18, 1934; he graduated from Elgin High School
8 in 1952, where he was a state championship wrestler and
9 homecoming king; he graduated from the University of Illinois
10 at Urbana-Champaign and John Marshall Law School; he served in
11 the U.S. Army Infantry in South Korea for two years; and

12 WHEREAS, Fred Steffen served as an appointed attorney for
13 the Elgin Housing Authority after being sworn in before the
14 U.S. Supreme Court; he provided pro bono services for local
15 churches and social service organizations; with his wife,
16 Judy, he opened and managed the Italian restaurant Cafe
17 Magdalena on Douglas Avenue from 1999 to 2007; and

18 WHEREAS, Fred Steffen touched the lives of many people
19 with his legal work and involvement in the Elgin community;
20 his steadfast commitment to public service showed in his early
21 advocacy for racial integration, his organization of the
22 area's first Hike for Hunger, and his successful efforts to

1 arrange for the First Congregational Church of Elgin to
2 celebrate their 150th anniversary by investing in the
3 expansion of the Elgin Community Crisis Center; and

4 WHEREAS, Fred Steffen served as a delegate to the 1970
5 Illinois Constitution Convention and a Carter delegate at the
6 1976 Democratic National Convention; he campaigned for U.S.
7 Congress in 1978; he was elected to the Elgin Community
8 College Board of Trustees for a six-year term and served as
9 Kane County Democratic Chairman for 18 years; and

10 WHEREAS, Fred Steffen sang as a tenor in both the First
11 Congregational Church Choir and the Elgin Choral Union; he
12 loved traveling, visiting every continent except for Africa
13 and Antarctica; he was an avid nature lover who always took the
14 time to learn the names of all the birds and plants around him;
15 and

16 WHEREAS, Fred Steffen was a beloved mentor to many; he
17 will be remembered for being perpetually enthusiastic and
18 upbeat; and

19 WHEREAS, Fred Steffen was preceded in death by his wife,
20 Judy Steffen, and his siblings, Anne Carroll, Barbara Phelps,
21 and Garth Steffen; and

1 WHEREAS, Frederick Steffen is survived by his children,
2 Julie (Detlev Pansch), John (Kerry Kelly), and Bob (Ketki
3 Shroff); his grandchildren, Joan, Chloe, Lili, Abby, Nika,
4 Alyssa, Liam, and Tristan; his siblings, Nate Steffen, Grant
5 Steffen, Lorna Schrock, and Ellie Hanchett; and his beloved
6 dog, Willow; therefore, be it

7 RESOLVED, BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE
8 HUNDRED SECOND GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, that
9 we mourn the passing of Frederick J. "Fred" Steffen and extend
10 our sincere condolences to his family, friends, and all who
11 knew and loved him; and be it further

12 RESOLVED, That a suitable copy of this resolution be
13 presented to the family of Fred Steffen as an expression of our
14 deepest sympathy.