



SR0027

LRB102 10316 MST 15643 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 Joseph William "Bill" Sharpe of Peoria, who passed on January 2, 2021; and

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WHEREAS, Bill Sharpe was born in Milwaukee, Wisconsin to Joseph William Sharpe and Elizabeth Roberts on February 20, 1938; he graduated from Bradley University in 1961 with a bachelor's degree in Business Administration, where he was president of the Alpha Kappa Psi Business Fraternity and served on numerous boards and committees; he had the opportunity to work closely with Jack Brickhouse, organizing fundraisers in the Chicago area for the Bradley Athletic Department; he was also a member of the Bradley Scholarship Society; and

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WHEREAS, Bill Sharpe first married Nancy Clayton, the mother of his three daughters; he then married Judith Brown, the mother of his son; he married Deborah Tilly in Italy in 2003; and

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WHEREAS, After working at Caterpillar, Inc., Bill Sharpe founded Sharp Income Tax Service in December of 1969, which became the largest, single location tax office in the United States, preparing over 10,000 tax returns per year;

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1 subsequently, he owned and operated Total Income Tax Service  
2 and Sharp Payroll Service, retiring in May of 2016; and

3 WHEREAS, Bill Sharpe was an avid fan of the Chicago Cubs  
4 fan and was thrilled to see them win the World Series in 2016;  
5 he also loved reading, traveling, fine dining, and  
6 socializing; he will especially be remembered for his kind  
7 heart and generosity in both his business and personal life;  
8 and

9 WHEREAS, Bill Sharpe was preceded in death by his parents;  
10 his infant son, Russell; and his son-in-law, James Voelker;  
11 and

12 WHEREAS, Bill Sharpe is survived by his wife, Deborah; his  
13 second wife, Judith; his daughters, Cindy (George) Birkhold,  
14 Kelly Voelker, and Toni (Carl) Root; his son, Joseph William  
15 (Shelley) Sharpe III; his stepdaughter, Erica Pegues; his  
16 stepson, Troy (Betsy) Tilly; 11 grandchildren; 16  
17 great-grandchildren; his brother, Thomas (Carol) Sharpe; his  
18 sister, Susan (Kent) Currie; and family friend, Linda Nelson;  
19 therefore, be it

20 RESOLVED, BY THE SENATE OF THE ONE HUNDRED SECOND GENERAL  
21 ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, that we mourn the passing of  
22 Joseph William "Bill" Sharpe and extend our sincere

1       condolences to his family, friends, and all who knew and loved  
2       him; and be it further

3               RESOLVED, That a suitable copy of this resolution be  
4       presented to the family of Bill Sharpe as an expression of our  
5       deepest sympathy.