



SR0061

LRB102 14499 ECR 19852 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 Frederick "Fred" Walton Allen of Peoria, who passed away on January 24, 2021; and

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WHEREAS, Fred Allen was born to Frederick William Allen and Laura Josephine (Johnson) Allen in Ripon, Wisconsin on June 10, 1923; he graduated from Ripon High School in 1941 and enrolled in Ripon College; he halted his studies to voluntarily enlist in the U.S. Army Air Force on December 7, 1942; he spent time as a pilot stationed at Keesler Field in Biloxi, Mississippi, the College of Waynesburg in Pennsylvania, the Classification Center at Nashville, Tennessee, Maxwell Field in Montgomery, Alabama, Douglas, Georgia, and Cochran Army Airfield in Macon, Georgia; he received his pilot's wings on August 5, 1944 at Moody Field in Valdosta, Georgia and completed his training with the rank of second lieutenant; with the assistance of the GI Bill, he attended law school for two years at Northwestern University; he was admitted to the Illinois State Bar in 1949; he married Tilley (Derges) Allen at the First Methodist Church of Peoria on July 26, 1952; and

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WHEREAS, Fred Allen had a long and distinguished career as a plaintiff's attorney; in 1949, he was hired by the law firm

1 of Louis Knobloch; in 1974, he became the first downstate  
2 Illinois lawyer to win a \$1 million award for a client, Ford  
3 Motors Company; he built his own law firm as a self-made  
4 businessman and regularly made time for pro bono legal work;  
5 and

6 WHEREAS, Fred Allen ran for Congress in 1956; he was  
7 elected for eight years as the 18th Congressional District  
8 State Central Committeeman for the Democratic party; and

9 WHEREAS, After his \$1 million verdict, Fred Allen earned  
10 membership into the Inner Circle of Advocates, an elite  
11 national group limited to plaintiff's attorneys who had won  
12 seven figure awards; at the time of his inclusion, there had  
13 been only 55 such awards paid out in the United States and  
14 members were limited to 100 nationally; he was a fellow of the  
15 American College of Trial Lawyers, a fellow of the  
16 International Society of Barristers, a fellow of the  
17 International Academy of Trial Lawyers, and a member of the  
18 Board of Governors of the Association of Trial Lawyers of  
19 America; he was president of the Illinois Trial Lawyers  
20 Association from 1974 through 1975, the Peoria County Bar  
21 Association from 1979 through 1980, and the invitation only  
22 Society of Trial Lawyers of Illinois from 1983 through 1984;  
23 he was a fellow and active in the Illinois State Bar  
24 Association for more than 50 years; and

1           WHEREAS, Fred Allen was a member of the Elks Club for more  
2 than 70 years; he was a president of the Country Club of Peoria  
3 and was also a member of the American Legion, the First United  
4 Methodist Church of Peoria, the Union League Club of Chicago,  
5 Springs Country Club of Rancho Mirage, California, Old Baldy  
6 Club of Saratoga, Wyoming, and the Mascoutin Golf Club of  
7 Berlin, Wisconsin; and

8           WHEREAS, Before World War Two, Fred Allen signed with a  
9 farm team of the New York Yankees, where he was known for his  
10 fastball; following his military service, he signed a contract  
11 as a pitcher with the Papermakers of Appleton, Wisconsin, a  
12 minor league affiliate of the Cleveland Indians; while he  
13 never realized the dream of becoming a Major League pitcher,  
14 he remained a devoted baseball fan; in 2016, a dream of his  
15 came true when he watched with his family as his beloved Cubs  
16 won the World Series; he especially enjoyed spending time with  
17 his daughters, grandchildren, great-grandchildren, and their  
18 families; and

19           WHEREAS, Fred Allen was preceded in death by his parents;  
20 his wife of 66 years; his daughter, Laura Allen Curfman; and  
21 his sister, Jane (Allen) Waters; and

22           WHEREAS, Fred Allen is survived by his two daughters,

1 Diane (Doug) Allen Cullinan Oberhelman and Rita Allen Graves;  
2 his seven grandchildren, Kathleen Cullinan (Tyson) Brill,  
3 Maureen Cullinan (Christopher) Bennett, Alison Cullinan (Matt)  
4 Unkovich, Allen (Laura) Cullinan, Crystal Curfman (Coby) Shaw,  
5 Colette Curfman, and Whitney Graves; his 13  
6 great-grandchildren, Austin Brill, Hudson Brill, Cameron  
7 Brill, Michael Bennett, Avery Bennett, Luke Bennett, Duane  
8 Douglas Cullinan, Mary Michael Cullinan, Frances Cullinan,  
9 Duke Unkovich, Tilley Unkovich, Adelaide Lott, and Coleman  
10 Lott; and his one great-grandchild on the way at the time of  
11 his passing; therefore, be it

12 RESOLVED, BY THE SENATE OF THE ONE HUNDRED SECOND GENERAL  
13 ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, that we mourn the passing of  
14 Frederick "Fred" Walton Allen and extend our sincere  
15 condolences to his family, friends, and all who knew and loved  
16 him; and be it further

17 RESOLVED, That a suitable copy of this resolution be  
18 presented to the family of Fred Allen as an expression of our  
19 deepest sympathy.