



SR0270

LRB102 18312 ECR 26051 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 Monsignor William A. Watson of Odell, who passed away on April 27, 2021; and

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WHEREAS, Monsignor Watson was born to Jarlath M. and Lucille M. (Johnson) Watson in Pontiac on March 9, 1936; he graduated from St. Paul High School in 1954; he attended St. Bede Prep Seminary in Peru, Illinois for two years and graduated from St. Mary of the Lake Seminary in Mundelein in 1962; he was ordained by Bishop John B. Franz in Peoria in June of 1962; and

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WHEREAS, Monsignor Watson's first parish assignment was at St. Joseph Catholic Church in Rock Island; there, he served as parochial vicar under Father Frank Casey; in 1969, he was assigned to St. John's Newman Center in Champaign where he assisted Monsignor Edward Duncan until 1981; at that time, he became pastor of St. Thomas the Apostle in Peoria Heights; he remained pastor there until receiving his senior status in 2015 and then retired to Odell; and

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WHEREAS, Monsignor Watson embodied the true measure of a priest, and his commitment to people was the hallmark of his ministry; he was compassionate and kind and made a deep mark on

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1 those who knew him; his gentle leadership attracted a vibrant  
2 and flourishing community of faith at St. Thomas, where he  
3 oversaw the addition of St. Thomas School, an enlarged worship  
4 space, and a new rectory; he will especially be remembered for  
5 his Irish wit and humor and for the love he had for family and  
6 friends; and

7 WHEREAS, Monsignor Watson was preceded in death by his  
8 brother-in-law, Bud Verdun; and

9 WHEREAS, Monsignor Watson is survived by his one sister,  
10 Catherine (Bud) Verdun; his three brothers, John (Peg) Watson,  
11 Joe (Caroline) Watson, and Jim (Linda) Watson; his 16 nieces  
12 and nephews; and his 51 great-nieces and great-nephews;  
13 therefore, be it

14 RESOLVED, BY THE SENATE OF THE ONE HUNDRED SECOND GENERAL  
15 ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, that we mourn the passing of  
16 Monsignor William A. Watson and extend our sincere condolences  
17 to his family, friends, and all who knew and loved him; and be  
18 it further

19 RESOLVED, That a suitable copy of this resolution be  
20 presented to the family of Monsignor Watson as an expression  
21 of our deepest sympathy.