



SR1190

LRB102 28950 ECR 40845 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 Craig Crowl Hart, who passed away on August 27, 2022; and

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WHEREAS, Craig Hart was born to Fred J. Hart and Katheryne Crowl Hart in Streator on January 11, 1934; he graduated from Streator High School in 1952, where he played basketball and football; he studied Accounting at the University of Illinois, where he was a member of the Sigma Chi fraternity and the Naval ROTC program; he was commissioned as a lieutenant junior grade in the U.S. Navy, serving on active duty at the Norfolk Naval Air Station for two years; he later earned his MBA from the University of Illinois; he married Alice Bower in Bloomington in 1956; he later married Jane Heggie Major in 1992; and

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WHEREAS, Craig Hart began his career at an accounting firm in Bloomington in 1958; he then joined the Bloomington Federal Savings and Loan Association; he was named president of Bloomington Federal, later Champion Federal, in 1971; he led the company for 21 years, overseeing its growth into the largest financial institution in downstate Illinois; he retired from banking in 1992; he then focused his time and energy on building the senior care companies Heritage Enterprises, now Heritage Health, and Green Tree Pharmacy,

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1 which he and his partners founded in 1960; and

2 WHEREAS, During his banking career, Craig Hart belonged to  
3 various trade association groups, including the U.S. League of  
4 Savings Institutions, the Illinois League of Savings  
5 Institutions, the Federal Home Loan Bank of Chicago, and the  
6 Federal Savings and Loan Council of Illinois; and

7 WHEREAS, Craig Hart held several leadership roles across a  
8 number of organizations, including the Bloomington-Normal  
9 Jaycees, the McLean County Chamber of Commerce, the Commerce  
10 Unit of the United Way of McLean County, the Bloomington  
11 Unlimited Downtown Development Committee, the McLean County  
12 Art Association, the Bloomington Country Club, State Farm  
13 Bank, the McLean County Historical Society, the University of  
14 Illinois College of Commerce Advisory Council, the Illinois  
15 State University Business Advisory Council, and the Illinois  
16 State University Foundation; he dedicated his time to Illinois  
17 Wesleyan University for 24 years, culminating in him serving  
18 as president of the Board of Trustees from 1994 to 2005; and

19 WHEREAS, Craig Hart was named the second most influential  
20 person in McLean County by Bloomington's WJBC radio station  
21 and became the namesake of the Hart Career Center at Illinois  
22 Wesleyan University; he was also honored as a Significant Sig,  
23 elected to Who's Who in Business, and named a 2017 History

1 Maker by the McLean County Historical Society; and

2 WHEREAS, Craig Hart was a loyal and true friend; he was a  
3 lifelong and passionate supporter of the Fighting Illini, the  
4 St. Louis Cardinals, and the Chicago Bears; he enjoyed  
5 spending time at his homes at Lake Bloomington and in the  
6 Arizona desert and at almost any golf course; he will be  
7 remembered for being his family's staunchest supporter; and

8 WHEREAS, Craig Hart was preceded in death by his parents;  
9 his brother, Bruce Hart; his daughters, Mollie Hart and  
10 Allison Hart; and his stepdaughter, Laura Major Burdick; and

11 WHEREAS, Craig Hart is survived by his wife, Jane; his  
12 sons, Bruce (Nadine) Hart, Brian (Lora Hall) Hart, and  
13 Benjamin Hart; his sister, Nan (Jerry) Westwood; his  
14 grandchildren, Chase Hart, Michael Hart, Helene Hart, Lauren  
15 Hart, and Alex Hart; and his nieces and nephews, Todd  
16 (Shannon) Hart, Leslie (Van) Friederich, Allan (Kim) Hart,  
17 Cara (Rex) McCrary, and Heather Jeter; therefore, be it

18 RESOLVED, BY THE SENATE OF THE ONE HUNDRED SECOND GENERAL  
19 ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, that we mourn the passing of  
20 Craig Cowl Hart and extend our sincere condolences to his  
21 family, friends, and all who knew and loved him; and be it  
22 further

1           RESOLVED, That a suitable copy of this resolution be  
2 presented to the family of Craig Hart as an expression of our  
3 deepest sympathy.