



SR0171

LRB103 31727 LAW 60309 r

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SENATE RESOLUTION

2 WHEREAS, The members of the Illinois Senate are saddened
3 to learn of the death of Farrell Cole "Dutch" Gay of
4 Springfield, who passed away on March 27, 2023; and

5 WHEREAS, Farrell Gay was born to Eugene V. Gay and Naomi
6 Cole Gay in Albia, Iowa on July 13, 1933; he graduated from
7 Franklin High School in Cedar Rapids, Iowa; he attended Coe
8 College, where he studied art and lettered in track all four
9 years; he married Ann LeFebure on April 3, 1955; and

10 WHEREAS, While still in college, Farrell Gay took a sales
11 position in January 1956 with Standard Fruit and Steamship
12 Company, a major importer of bananas based in New Orleans;
13 later in the year, he moved to St. Louis as acting sales
14 manager for Standard Fruit; he remained in that position for
15 2.5 years before joining Brown and Loe, a fruit and vegetable
16 brokerage firm in St. Louis; he partnered with Manager Tom
17 Lange and colleague Paul Beisser to purchase the brokerage
18 office from the retiring Brown and Loe owners in 1960, and they
19 proceeded to open their first Tom Lange Company office; he
20 opened a second Lange office in Springfield four years later,
21 with his first sale being a load of potatoes at a profit of
22 \$38; through hard work and dedication, he expanded the
23 business to include hiring staff and selling throughout

1 central Illinois, Indiana, and the Midwest; and

2 WHEREAS, Farrell Gay began his term as president of the
3 Lange Company in 1977, with seven midwestern Lange sales
4 offices; after having served as president in Springfield for
5 18 years, he became board chairman in 1995 before retiring in
6 August 1997, with 20 Lange offices in the United States and one
7 in Toronto, Canada; he was succeeded as CEO by his friend and
8 long-time partner, Phil Gumpert; and

9 WHEREAS, Farrell Gay was active with his partners, Tom
10 Lange and Phil Gumpert, in several other endeavors, and they
11 were affectionately known by the managers and employees as
12 "The Three Wise Men"; in 1979, they purchased the two square
13 block site of the former Sangamo Electric and Illinois Watch
14 Company, and, after extensive renovations that later earned
15 them the Mayor's City Preservation Award, they sold the site
16 to the Illinois Environmental Protection Agency in 1998; they
17 were also owners of TLC, Inc., a national transporter of
18 multiple products with a refrigerated fleet of 300 tractors
19 and 500 trailers that was purchased by a publicly held
20 Texas-based transportation company in 1996; and

21 WHEREAS, Farrell Gay was also a founding partner and owner
22 of The Gables shopping complex; and

1 WHEREAS, Farrell Gay belonged to several organizations and
2 served on the boards of Copley First Citizen, the Champion
3 Federal Savings and Loan Association in Bloomington, the Rail
4 Classic and State Farm Classic golf tournaments, the Sangamo
5 Club, the Illini Country Club, the Springfield Art
6 Association, and the Island Bay Yacht Club, where he was named
7 commodore in 1979; he was a member of the State of Illinois
8 Public Arts Advisory Council and the Imperial Golf Club in
9 Naples, Florida; he served on the broker's division of the
10 United Fresh Fruit and Vegetable Association for six years,
11 with two being spent as president; he was chairman of the Old
12 Capitol Art Fair in 1973, returning as an honorary chairman 30
13 years later in 2003; and

14 WHEREAS, Farrell Gay was heavily involved with the Elijah
15 Iles House Foundation, serving as a board member and
16 president; he organized and began the Elijah Iles Golf
17 Tournament in 2010, and its proceeds garnered \$52,500 for the
18 Iles House over the next five years; he also founded the
19 Farrell and Ann Gay Museum of Springfield history, located in
20 the Elijah Iles House; and

21 WHEREAS, Farrell Gay further gave back to his community
22 through reviving the Illinois Watch Company's 1925 nationwide
23 Lincoln essay contest in 2009, bringing the scholarship
24 competition back to students of Springfield's six high

1 schools; he also lent his artistic skills to face painting for
2 children at the Old State Capitol and the Elijah Iles House;
3 and

4 WHEREAS, Farrell Gay was a collector of old and classic
5 automobiles, and he belonged to the Classic Car Club of
6 America, the National Woodie Club, and the Cadillac/LaSalle
7 Club; he also enjoyed collecting Illinois Watch Company wrist
8 watches, both men's and women's, and his collection has been
9 recognized as the finest and most extensive in the country;
10 and

11 WHEREAS, Farrell Gay is survived by his sons, Cole
12 (Sharon) Gay and Todd (Suzi) Gay; his grandchildren, Zoey Gay,
13 Olivia (Zach) Warman, Melissa (TJ) Vanheil, and Jett Gay; his
14 sister, Eleanor Siepman; and his three great-grandchildren;
15 therefore, be it

16 RESOLVED, BY THE SENATE OF THE ONE HUNDRED THIRD GENERAL
17 ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, that we mourn the passing of
18 Farrell Cole "Dutch" Gay and extend our sincere condolences to
19 his family, friends, and all who knew and loved him; and be it
20 further

21 RESOLVED, That a suitable copy of this resolution be
22 presented to the family of Farrell Gay as an expression of our

1 deepest sympathy.