



SR0352

LRB103 32791 MST 62595 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 John J. Konopek Sr., who passed away on May 26, 2023; and

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WHEREAS, John Konopek was born to Jacob and Jennie (Sonce) Konopek on May 27, 1931; he graduated from St. Joseph Grade School in 1945, Joliet Catholic High School in 1949, and Joliet Junior College in 1951; he served in the U.S. Army during the Korean War and spent 17 months in Germany; he was honorably discharged in 1954; and

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WHEREAS, John Konopek worked as a clerk for the Illinois Central Gulf Railroad for 35 years; and

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WHEREAS, John Konopek was a passionate sports fan and especially loved Joliet Catholic Academy sports and the Chicago Cubs; he had a love of baseball and was active in the St. Joseph baseball organization as a manager and board member; he and his wife, Rosemary, established the first women's board in the organization as well; and

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WHEREAS, John Konopek was a member of St. Joseph Church in Joliet, the Will County Old Timers Baseball Association, where he served as secretary for several years, St. Joseph Seniors,

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1 Crest Hill Seniors, KSKJ St. John's Lodge 143, Holy Name  
2 Seniors, American Legion Post #1080, and VFW Cantigny Post  
3 #367; he was a 1977 inductee into the Senior Services Center  
4 Volunteer Hall of Fame; and

5 WHEREAS, John Konopek could often be found at St. Joseph's  
6 Park; he enjoyed volunteering his time to help with parish  
7 events and co-chairing the annual St. Joseph Homecoming  
8 Picnic; he helped facilitate the first BINGO games at the park  
9 40 years ago and was a well-known BINGO caller who proudly  
10 originated the Early Bird Game; and

11 WHEREAS, John Konopek was preceded in death by his wife,  
12 Rosemary (Dorr); his daughter, Janine Kaye; his parents; his  
13 sister, Norine Mulbarger; his brother-in-law, Leonard Dorr;  
14 his sister-in-law, Joanne Dorr; his brother-in-law, William  
15 DePratt; his brother-in-law, Evan Mulbarger; and his beloved  
16 dog, Eskimo; and

17 WHEREAS, John Konopek is survived by his son, John Jr.  
18 (Maureen) Konopek; his son-in-law, Sean (the late Janine)  
19 Kaye; his grandchildren, Caitlin and Nicholas Konopek and  
20 Jacob and Logan Kaye; his sister-in-law, Colette DePratt; and  
21 numerous nieces, nephews, and cousins; therefore, be it

22 RESOLVED, BY THE SENATE OF THE ONE HUNDRED THIRD GENERAL

1 ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, that we mourn the passing of  
2 John J. Konopek Sr. and extend our sincere condolences to his  
3 family, friends, and all who knew and loved him; and be it  
4 further

5 RESOLVED, That a suitable copy of this resolution be  
6 presented to the family of John Konopek as an expression of our  
7 deepest sympathy.