



SR1066

LRB103 41131 LAW 74348 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 Martin Luther Bray III of Canton, who passed away on June 8, 2024; and

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WHEREAS, Martin Bray, the son of Martin L. Bray Jr. and Ethel Dixon Bray, was born in Washington, D.C. on February 3, 1938; he was raised in Vienna, Virginia; he graduated from Fairfax High School in Fairfax, Virginia in 1956; he served in the U.S. Army in Berlin, Germany during the Cold War for three years; he then moved to California, where he earned a Bachelor of Science in Electronic Engineering from Pacific States University in Los Angeles and a Bachelor of Science in Computer Science from West Coast University in Orange County; he married Janet D. Harris in Duarte, California on August 26, 1961; and

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WHEREAS, Martin Bray worked as a design engineer in the aerospace industry; he moved with his family to Wataga, Illinois to start a business in 1974; he then worked as an electronic engineer for Caterpillar Inc. in East Peoria for eight years and at Sommer Products in Bartonville for 18 years; and

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WHEREAS, Martin Bray pursued his dream of living and

1 working on a farm when he purchased one in Missouri as a
2 weekend hobby; he then purchased a farm closer to his day job
3 in rural Smithfield in 1988, and he continued to farm until his
4 passing; and

5 WHEREAS, Martin Bray served his community as a member of
6 the Fulton County Farm Bureau, the Institute of Electrical and
7 Electronic Engineers, and the Wataga Village Board; he was
8 also a member of the Shirt and Skirt Square Dance Club of
9 Canton; he was a devoted member of Fiatt Independent Christian
10 Church, where he served on the Finance Committee; and

11 WHEREAS, Martin Bray enjoyed working on the farm, riding
12 his bicycle, reading, and spending time with his family; and

13 WHEREAS, Martin Bray was preceded in death by his parents;
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15 WHEREAS, Martin Bray is survived by his wife, Janet Bray;
16 his sisters, Jean (Guy) Southers, Helain (Kevin) Steele,
17 Mildred (Andy) Blake, and Shirley Bray; his daughters, Karen
18 (Trent) Tucker and Deanna (Brett) Chatterton; his
19 grandchildren, Jason (Lauren) Chatterton, Joshua (Margaret)
20 Chatterton, Brittany (Nathaniel) Roberts, Alexander Tucker,
21 Josiah (Hannah) Chatterton, Bailey (Daniel) Taflinger, Brenna
22 Chatterton, AnnaMary Chatterton, and Hadassah Chatterton; and

1 eight great-grandchildren; therefore, be it

2 RESOLVED, BY THE SENATE OF THE ONE HUNDRED THIRD GENERAL
3 ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, that we mourn the passing of
4 Martin Luther Bray III and extend our sincere condolences to
5 his family, friends, and all who knew and loved him; and be it
6 further

7 RESOLVED, That a suitable copy of this resolution be
8 presented to the family of Martin Bray as an expression of our
9 deepest sympathy.