



SR1097

LRB103 41184 LAW 74401 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 Gene W. Puschel of Springfield, who passed away on May 22, 2024; and

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WHEREAS, Gene Puschel was born to Gene A. and Margaret (Riley) Puschel in Springfield on December 19, 1957; he attended George Washington University in Washington, D.C., where he was an editor of the school newspaper and a member of Phi Sigma Kappa fraternity; he married Katherine R. Hutt in 1984, and they raised their family in Vienna, Virginia before amicably divorcing in 2005; and

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WHEREAS, Gene Puschel lived in the Washington, D.C. area for 27 years, during which he worked in technology sales for top news organizations Congressional Quarterly, Washington Post, UPI, Reuters, and Dow Jones; he also volunteered for the presidential campaigns of Gary Hart and Al Gore; after moving back to Springfield, Illinois, he frequently returned to Washington, D.C. to proudly support his children's theatrical pursuits and other activities; and

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WHEREAS, Gene Puschel earned a degree in history from the University of Illinois Springfield, where he conducted research for Lincoln scholar and author Dr. Michael

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1 Burlingame; he then worked as a park ranger at the Lincoln Home
2 National Historic Site and as an historic interpreter at the
3 Old State Capitol, the Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library,
4 and the Lincoln-Herndon Law Offices; he became renowned for
5 his in-depth knowledge of President Lincoln's life and career,
6 and he was a popular fixture at Springfield's historic sites;
7 at the time of his death, he was doing preliminary research for
8 a tour based on the political career of President Barack
9 Obama, and he had recently been elected as a Democratic
10 Precinct Committeeperson for Woodside Township; and

11 WHEREAS, Gene Puschel was a consummate traveler,
12 journeying to approximately 20 countries; most memorably, he
13 toured the then-Soviet Union with a group of professional
14 geographers for three weeks in 1981; when the tour ended, he
15 ventured across the continent on the Trans-Siberian Express
16 under the watchful eye of his own personal KGB escort; during a
17 trip to Germany in 1990, he and his wife, Katherine, helped
18 tear down the Berlin Wall; he completed his most recent trip,
19 visiting Ireland with friends from Darcy's Pint in
20 Springfield, just a few months ago; and

21 WHEREAS, Gene Puschel loved visiting family and friends in
22 New York; he was also a passionate and lifelong participant in
23 organ donor programs; and

1 WHEREAS, Gene Puschel was preceded in death by his parents
2 and his sister, Joyce A. Reitman; and

3 WHEREAS, Gene Puschel is survived by his son, William Gene
4 Puschel; his daughter, Katherine Margaret (Justin Perez)
5 Puschel; his sister, Peggy Elizabeth (Tom) Luthy; his brother,
6 William (Rachel) Puschel; his brother-in-law, Leslie Reitman;
7 seven nieces and nephews; and his friends; therefore, be it

8 RESOLVED, BY THE SENATE OF THE ONE HUNDRED THIRD GENERAL
9 ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, that we mourn the passing of
10 Gene W. Puschel and extend our sincere condolences to his
11 family, friends, and all who knew and loved him; and be it
12 further

13 RESOLVED, That a suitable copy of this resolution be
14 presented to the family of Gene Puschel as an expression of our
15 deepest sympathy.