



SR0223

LRB104 13041 LAW 24868 r

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SENATE RESOLUTION

2           WHEREAS, The members of the Illinois Senate are saddened  
3 to learn of the death of William F. "Bill" Murphy Jr., the  
4 former Mayor of the Village of Woodridge, who passed away on  
5 March 30, 2025; and

6           WHEREAS, William Murphy, the son of Dr. William Murphy and  
7 Agnes Murphy, graduated from Immaculate Conception Grade  
8 School in Elmhurst, Illinois, St. Bede Academy in Peru,  
9 Illinois, and St. Joseph's College in Collegeville, Indiana;  
10 he received a master's degree in education administration and  
11 supervision from Roosevelt University; and

12           WHEREAS, William Murphy began his career in education with  
13 Chicago Public Schools, where he worked for five years; he  
14 proceeded to join Woodridge School District 68, where he  
15 served as a principal for five years and then as assistant  
16 superintendent for personnel, a position he held for 29 years  
17 until he retired in 2004; in retirement, he received the  
18 distinction of the board of education renaming the Woodridge  
19 Elementary School as the William F. Murphy Elementary School  
20 to honor his service to the school district and community; and

21           WHEREAS, William Murphy was the longest-serving Mayor of  
22 Woodridge and of DuPage County; he initially served as a

1 village trustee after first being elected in 1973, a position  
2 he held for two four-year terms; he was elected as Mayor of  
3 Woodridge in 1981, serving in that position across 32 years  
4 until he retired on April 30, 2013; during his tenure, he was  
5 instrumental in the expansion of the Woodridge community, with  
6 the population growing by more than 47% and its square miles  
7 doubling since 1981, evolving the village from a bedroom  
8 community to one possessing a diversified, stable economy;  
9 under his leadership, property values in Woodridge soared,  
10 succeeding \$500 million in 1988 and then \$3 billion in 2006,  
11 while the property tax rate declined 24 years in a row from  
12 1985 to 2010; he also played an integral role in the  
13 development of Memorial Park, the Woodridge Center, the  
14 Centrepointe of Woodridge shopping center, the Michael Jordan  
15 Celebrity Golf Classic at the Seven Bridges Golf Club, the K-9  
16 program, miles of bike paths, several subdivisions, and task  
17 forces; and

18 WHEREAS, William Murphy led his community through  
19 partnership, service, and recognition; he introduced an annual  
20 community recognition program to highlight the village's most  
21 outstanding business, youth, citizen, association, advisory  
22 commission member, and public employee; he championed a  
23 strategic management process that seeks input from the  
24 community to identify priority goals and then uses that input  
25 to create board goals to be carried out by staff; he

1 implemented a five-year financial planning process to ensure  
2 both the stability of Woodridge and the ability to achieve the  
3 goals identified by the community; his impact on Woodridge was  
4 further cemented when the village was featured as the "World's  
5 Greatest Community-Midwest" by the World's Greatest TV Show in  
6 2006 and showcased as one of "100 Best Places to Live" by Money  
7 magazine in 2007; and

8 WHEREAS, William Murphy further gave back to his community  
9 through the ProLogis Foundation, providing annual college  
10 scholarships to Woodridge High School graduates and grants to  
11 a number of charitable programs, including Support Our Troops,  
12 the Woodridge Golden Years program, the Woodridge Community  
13 Resource Center, and the Diversity Committee; he also helped  
14 create the Building On Our Dream Award and was a charter board  
15 member of Giant Steps, an autism center for excellence in  
16 Lisle, a member of the community pantry board and the Robert  
17 Shields Memorial fundraiser, and a longtime usher at St.  
18 Scholastica Catholic Church, where he also belonged to the  
19 Finance Committee; and

20 WHEREAS, William Murphy was an active participant in  
21 local, regional, and national organizations, previously  
22 serving as a two-term president of the DuPage Mayors and  
23 Managers Conference, vice chairman of the DuPage Water  
24 Commission, president of the Illinois Municipal League, vice

1 president of the Illinois International Port District, and a  
2 member of the National League of Cities Board of Directors and  
3 Advisory Council and the U.S. Conference of Mayors; he also  
4 served as a mentor to many, sharing his insights on how to  
5 build communities and be an effective leader and advocate; and

6 WHEREAS, William Murphy was a true servant leader who  
7 advanced Woodridge immeasurably through his intelligence,  
8 strength, compassion, drive, kindness, fortitude, ethics,  
9 determination, vision, and adherence to the principles of good  
10 governance; his legacy will further live on through the  
11 Woodridge Village Hall being renamed as the William F. Murphy  
12 Jr. Village Hall in honor of his exemplary public service and  
13 his selfless dedication to the Woodridge community for over 55  
14 years; and

15 WHEREAS, William Murphy was the husband of Liz (Campbell)  
16 Murphy for over 58 years; the father of Jennifer (Larry)  
17 Lawson, Lisa (Doug) Young, William Murphy III, and Colleen  
18 (Tom) Bosche; the grandfather of six; the brother of Timothy,  
19 Anne Schiller, Jane Wangler, Mary Hauert, Charles Murphy, and  
20 Peggy Grobe; and the relative of many brothers-in-law,  
21 sisters-in-law, nieces, nephews, and cousins; therefore, be it

22 RESOLVED, BY THE SENATE OF THE ONE HUNDRED FOURTH GENERAL  
23 ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, that we mourn the passing of

1 William F. "Bill" Murphy Jr., the former Mayor of the Village  
2 of Woodridge, 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 William Murphy as an expression of  
7 our deepest sympathy.