

1

SENATE RESOLUTION

2

3

4

WHEREAS, The members of the Senate of the State of Illinois were saddened to learn of the death of Leo Leonard Gedvilas of Naperville on Sunday, January 26, 2003; and

5

6

7

8

WHEREAS, Mr. Gedvilas grew up in Spring Valley; he graduated from Hall High School, in Spring Valley in 1941, where he played football and was captain of the varsity basketball team; and

9

10

11

12

13

14

WHEREAS, He attended George Washington University, but scarlet fever sent him home prior to the end of his freshman year; he went on to receive his bachelor's degree in 1946 and a master's degree in 1947, both in physical education, from the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign; he lettered in basketball and baseball; and

15

16

17

18

19

20

WHEREAS, Mr. Gedvilas began work at the University of Illinois at Navy Pier, which later became the University of Illinois at Chicago, as a physical education instructor; he worked at UIC for 39 years and held a number of positions including assistant dean of the physical education department; he retired in 1987; and

21

22

23

24

25

26

WHEREAS, Mr. Gedvilas was the basketball coach from 1947 to 1958 and had the distinction of being the first basketball coach at UIC; he holds the record for the highest basketball winning percentage for the school, .560, with a record of 102 wins and 80 losses; he was known as a straightforward coach who often served as a surrogate father to his students; and

27

28

29

30

31

WHEREAS, In his retirement, Mr. Gedvilas served as membership chairman for the UIC chapter of the State Universities Annuitants Association from 1990 to 1991; he was an active member of Saints Peter and Paul Church in Naperville, serving as a religious education teacher and as a

1 member of the bingo committee and the Knights of Columbus;
2 and

3 WHEREAS, The passing of Mr. Gedvilas has been deeply felt
4 by many, especially his wife, Darlene; his sons, Andy, Tom,
5 Larry, Joe, John, and Bob; his daughter, Mary Ellen Butz; his
6 sister, Louise Urbanski; and his 18 grandchildren; therefore,
7 be it

8 RESOLVED, BY THE SENATE OF THE NINETY-THIRD GENERAL
9 ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, that we mourn the passing
10 of Leo Leonard Gedvilas and offer his family and friends our
11 sincerest condolences; and be it further

12 RESOLVED, That a suitable copy of this resolution be
13 presented to the family of Leo Leonard Gedvilas as an
14 expression of our deepest sympathy.