SR0524   LRB095 17778 KXB 43857 r

1   SENATE RESOLUTION

2   WHEREAS, The members of the Illinois Senate are saddened to

3   learn of the death of Melvin E. "Mel" Dunn of Marco Island,

4   Florida, formerly of Geneva, who passed away on January 7,

5   2007; and

6   WHEREAS, Melvin Dunn was born October 31, 1933, in Chicago;

7   he was orphaned at age six and was raised by various relatives;

8   he attended St. Thomas the Apostle Elementary School, Quigley

9   South Seminary, Hyde Park High School, the University of

10   Illinois at Navy Pier, Roosevelt University and Kent Law

11   School; after serving with the Coast Guard during the Korean

12   War he earned a living as a salesman and eventually launched

13   his own private investigation agency where his quick wit and

14   street-wise savvy made him the preferred P.I. of several top

15   law firms; and

16   WHEREAS, Following graduation from Kent Law School in 1971,

17   he was employed by a respected Chicago law firm and became the

18   chief investigator for the Illinois Attorney General's Fraud

19   Division; in 1972, Mel was united in marriage to Judith

20   Wilkinson Vester; and

21   WHEREAS, He opened his own law firm and soon a dream come

22   true when in 1982 he became a judge; he was a diligent

1   volunteer for Mutual Ground, Aurora; he and his wife hosted

2   many foreign exchange students and opened their home to many

3   other children; he taught paralegal classes at Elgin Community

4   College and was a much sought after guest speaker for many

5   community causes and events; in 1986 he ran a hotly contested

6   campaign for a seat as a Circuit Judge and won by a large

7   margin; the motto of his campaign, "Let Justice be Dunn" became

8   the credo of his judicial career; in addition to working in all

9   the courts the Sixteenth Judicial District, he was Chief of the

10 Family Law Division and the Chancery Division; and

11   WHEREAS, In 1998, Mel retired from the bench; in 2001, he

12 and Jude moved to the present family home on Marco Island,

13 Florida; he was a Fellow in the American Academy of Matrimonial

14 Lawyers, a member of the Family Law Council of the Illinois

15 State Bar Association, and the Kane County Bar Association; he

16 was a founder of the Elburn Business Council, a member of the

17 Elburn Lion's Club, and parade chairman of the Elburn Days

18 Parade; he was an enthusiastic member of the Marco Lutheran

19 Church, the church choir, and the Marco Men's Club; and

20   WHEREAS, Melvin Dunn is survived by his wife, Jude; his

21 daughters, Lori (Michael) Dunn-Reier and Andrea (Brian)

22 Johanson; his sons, Rick (Toni Keller) Vester, Jonathan (Judy

23 Johns) Vester, and G. Adam (Tina Schuck) Vester; his thirteen

24 grandchildren, Lori's: Jessica (Eric) Staponkus and Malia and

1   Briana; Rick's: Ryan and Sarah; Jonathan's: David Vester,

2   Heather Johns and Matthew Johns; Adam's: Kylie Vester;

3   Andrea's: Luke, Abbie, Noah, Nehemiah; his three

4   great-grandchildren, Jessica's: Elise and Alex; Heather's:

5   Kaylee; his three former foreign exchanges students who remain

6   like sons and daughters, Christina "Nina" (Dr. Gerhardt)

7   Fliedner, Lars (Susanne) Johanhage, and Christian (Claudia)

8   Schmaus; his two half-sisters, Jane Dunn and "Wish" (Greg)

9   Sims; his many nieces and nephews; his brother-in-law, Richard

10   "Dick" (fiancée: Yvonne Crane) Wilkinson; and a "family of

11   friends" across the country and around the world; he is

12   preceded in death by his parents; his mother and father-in-law,

13   Robert and R. Adele Wilkinson; his two sisters-in-law, Lillian

14   Wilkinson and Judy Kelly; and his two brothers-in-law, Robert

15   Wilkinson Jr. and Roger Wilkinson; therefore, be it

16   RESOLVED, BY THE SENATE OF THE NINETY-FIFTH GENERAL

17   ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, that we mourn, along with

18   his family and friends, the passing of Melvin E. "Mel" Dunn;

19   and be it further

20   RESOLVED, That a suitable copy of this resolution be

21   presented to the family of Melvin E. "Mel" Dunn as a symbol of

22   our sincere sympathy.