



HR0943

LRB096 21265 KXB 37149 r

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HOUSE RESOLUTION

2           WHEREAS, The members of the Illinois House of  
3 Representatives are saddened to learn of the death of Richard  
4 "Dick" Solomon of Naperville, who passed away on October 29,  
5 2009, following a courageous 15-year battle with Parkinson's  
6 Disease; and

7           WHEREAS, Dick Solomon was born June 2, 1933 in Bloomington;  
8 he graduated from Bloomington High School in 1951 and from the  
9 Illinois Institute of Technology in 1955, with a Bachelor of  
10 Science degree in Fire Protection and Safety Engineering; and

11           WHEREAS, On October 9, 1955 he married Jane J. Henderson in  
12 Colfax; in 1956 he entered the United States Navy and was  
13 stationed in Japan and New York working in the Research,  
14 Testing, and Developmental Laboratory; when he was discharged  
15 in 1958, Dick and Jane settled in Naperville; and

16           WHEREAS, He dedicated his life to fire protection service;  
17 he worked as Assistant Chief Engineer at ISO in the Municipal  
18 Department located in Chicago from 1958 to 1966; he founded  
19 Richard H. Solomon & Associates in 1967 as a fire protection  
20 engineering firm serving governmental units and was the primary  
21 project and field engineer and lead consultant to more than 65  
22 municipalities and fire districts in Illinois and surrounding

1 states; Richard H. Solomon & Associates regarded life safety  
2 codes and the development of communities to ensure adequate  
3 fire protection; Richard Solomon served until his retirement in  
4 2006; and

5 WHEREAS, He also served as DuPage County Fire Marshal from  
6 1977 until his retirement; and

7 WHEREAS, Richard Solomon held many other positions in his  
8 life; by gubernatorial appointment, Richard was a member of the  
9 Illinois Fire Protection Personnel Standards and Education  
10 Commission from 1970 to 1977, where he served as Chairman for  
11 several years; he was Vice-Chairman of the Illinois High Rise  
12 Fire Commission in the mid-1980s and worked actively to create  
13 legislation to protect occupants of high-rise housing and  
14 hotels; and

15 WHEREAS, He was inducted as a Life Member of the National  
16 Fire Protection Association (NFPA) and served or led several  
17 committees; he held leadership positions in the Society of Fire  
18 Protection Engineers by serving on the national and Illinois  
19 Boards of Directors, President of the Illinois chapter, and  
20 many other committees; the Chicago chapter awarded him the  
21 Joseph B. Finnegan award and the Lewis W. Freeman award for  
22 outstanding service to the field; and

1           WHEREAS, Richard was a lecturer and speaker at several  
2 institutions, including the Illinois Institute of Technology  
3 and the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, as well as  
4 many fire professional, municipal, and technical organizations  
5 throughout the country; he wrote many training materials,  
6 including a text that is still utilized in several degree  
7 programs across the country; and

8           WHEREAS, Richard was a charter member of the Naperville  
9 Congregational Church and actively involved in church  
10 committees; he was a devoted husband and father to his two  
11 daughters, Karen and Diane, and a loving grandfather to his  
12 grandsons Brian and Danny; and

13           WHEREAS, Richard Solomon's dedication to his jobs, civil  
14 service, the people of Illinois, and his family has inspired  
15 many who were lucky enough to cross his path; therefore, be it

16           RESOLVED, BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE  
17 NINETY-SIXTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, that we  
18 mourn, along with his family and friends, the passing of  
19 Richard "Dick" Solomon; and be it further

20           RESOLVED, That a suitable copy of this resolution be  
21 presented to the family of Richard "Dick" Solomon as an  
22 expression of our sincere sympathy.