



SR0592

LRB097 20106 KXB 65484 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 Thomas Getz of Moline, who passed away on January 15, 2012; and

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WHEREAS, He was born October 17, 1927, in Moline, to Harry W. and Carolyn (Ainsworth) Getz; he attended Moline schools through his high school sophomore year and graduated from Western Reserve Academy in Hudson, Ohio, in 1945; he graduated from Amherst College in Amherst, Massachusetts, in 1950, with a degree in economics; he achieved the rank of Eagle Scout in 1943 and later received the Silver Beaver Award and served as a vice president of Area 3 BSA; and

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WHEREAS, He married Karen F. Hartman on December 26, 1973, in Arlington Heights; he served as an ensign in the United States Coast Guard during the Korean War from 1951 to 1953, as a communications and deck watch officer on the 311-foot cutter Bering Strait out of Seattle; he returned to Moline in February 1953, and was employed by Williams, White & Company; in 1957, he started working part-time at Moline Forge and was in charge of finance; in 1963, he became president of Moline Forge and was in charge of general operations while still remaining an officer in Williams, White & Company; and

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1           WHEREAS, He was active in community organizations and  
2 causes; he was involved in the Two Rivers YMCA as board  
3 president and was later the chairman of its Board of Trustees;  
4 he was chairman of the 1968 campaign to raise over \$2 million  
5 in capital funds to build the new YMCA on 53rd Street in  
6 Moline; he also received the YMCA's Life-Time Achievement  
7 Award; he was a past president of the Illowa Council of the Boy  
8 Scouts of America; he was also the first president of Quad-City  
9 Arts when it was founded in 1988 and remained as treasurer for  
10 many years; and

11           WHEREAS, He served as chairman of the Bettendorf Civil  
12 Service Commission, on the advisory council for the Quad-City  
13 Salvation Army, was past Commodore of the White Lake Yacht Club  
14 in Whitehall, Michigan, was named Boss of the Year by the  
15 American Business Women's Association, served as co-chair for  
16 the Christian Friendliness Capital Campaign, and served on the  
17 Board of Trustees for Rivermont Collegiate School in  
18 Bettendorf; he was a past board member of Augustana College; he  
19 also served on the Board for The United Way, where he served as  
20 chairman and was president of various committees; and

21           WHEREAS, He was on the Board of the Forging Industry  
22 Association, the Illinois Humanities Council, the Quad-Cities  
23 Regional Economic Development Authority, Renew Moline, and  
24 First Federal Savings and Loan in Davenport; he was a past

1 president of The Forging Industry Association, City Treasurer  
2 of Bettendorf for 10 years, and received the Distinguished  
3 Philanthropy Award from the National Society of Fund Raising  
4 Executives and the William B. Foster Community Volunteer Award  
5 by the Modern Woodman of America in 1999; he was inducted into  
6 the Junior Achievement QC Business Hall of Fame; he was among  
7 the business leaders responsible for bringing about the I  
8 wireless Center, the John Deere Commons, and all of the  
9 development that has been built up in downtown Moline as a  
10 result of the public/private partnership between the city and  
11 Renew Moline; and

12 WHEREAS, He served as the Chairman of the Rock Island  
13 Republican Party; he was a supporter of Skip-A-Long Day Care,  
14 the Renew Moline Boys and Girls Club, Junior Achievement, and  
15 the former Quad-Cities Development Group; he was also a  
16 supporter of the Quad-City Arts Annual Festival of Trees, the  
17 Quad-City Symphony Orchestra, Arrowhead Ranch, the Family  
18 Museum, and Putnam Museum; and

19 WHEREAS, In 2008, the Association of Fundraising  
20 Professionals Q-C chapter gave him the Distinguished Service to  
21 Philanthropy Award; for many years, he served as a member of  
22 the Distinguished Clown Corps in the Quad-City Arts  
23 Thanksgiving Parade; and he established the Moline Fund in  
24 memory of his late wife; and

1           WHEREAS, He was preceded in death by his wife, Karen; his 5  
2 brothers; his 3 sisters; and his first wife, Diana Barrott  
3 Mannon; and

4           WHEREAS, Thomas Getz is survived by his children, Dr.  
5 Thomas Getz and his wife, Margaret Burrows-Getz, Bettina (Tina)  
6 Getz and her husband, William Judge, and Christopher Getz; his  
7 grandchildren, Meghan Metzger and her husband, Michael, Lara  
8 Getz, Eli Judge and Caitlin (Casey) Judge, and Skyler Getz and  
9 Jacob (Jake) Getz; his sister, Carol Bartholomew; his beloved  
10 nieces, nephews, and cousins; and his longtime assistant,  
11 Tiffany Erichsen; therefore, be it

12           RESOLVED, BY THE SENATE OF THE NINETY-SEVENTH GENERAL  
13 ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, that we mourn, along with  
14 his family and friends, the passing of Thomas Getz; and be it  
15 further

16           RESOLVED, That a suitable copy of this resolution be  
17 presented to the family of Thomas Getz as a symbol of our  
18 sincere sympathy.