



SR0055

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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 Robert Joseph "Bob" Stecher of West Peoria, who passed away on January 11, 2015; and

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WHEREAS, Robert Stecher was born on November 19, 1951 to Joseph G. and Mary G. (nee Cotter) Stecher; he graduated from Bergan High School in Peoria; he married Carol Ann Bedell on December 2, 1972 at Saint Mark Catholic Church in Peoria; and

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WHEREAS, Robert Stecher joined his father at Stecher's Automotive Service Inc.; when his father retired in 1987, he became the owner, making him the third generation to run the family business; and

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WHEREAS, Robert Stecher joined the West Peoria Fire Department in 1970, becoming an emergency medical technician and working his way up through the ranks; he was a firefighter, engineer, Captain, and Assistant Chief before becoming Chief of the department in 1987; he was the longest serving Chief in the history of the department, before retiring in 2012; that same year, he was granted Chief Emeritus status by the Illinois Fire Chiefs Association; he also began serving as a Trustee for the West Peoria Fire Protection District, a position he held until his passing; he received numerous honors and awards for his

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1 service to his community, including the West Peoria's
2 Firefighter of the Year Award, the Emergency Medical Technician
3 of the Year Award, the American Red Cross Heartland Hero Award
4 (2003), and the Hardees Hometown Hero Award presented by
5 Illinois Governor Jim Edgar (1994); and

6 WHEREAS, Robert Stecher was a member and officer of
7 numerous organizations, including the West Peoria
8 Firefighter's Association, the Illinois Firefighter's
9 Association, the Peoria Area Fire Chiefs Association, the
10 Illinois Fire Chiefs Association, the International
11 Association of Fire Chiefs, the Central Illinois Fire
12 Investigators Association, the International Association of
13 Arson Investigators, and the Peoria County Emergency Services
14 and Disaster Agency; he worked with others to help incorporate
15 the City of West Peoria in 1993 and he served on the committee
16 to select the city's first Mayor; and

17 WHEREAS, Robert Stecher was a member of St. Ann Catholic
18 Church in Peoria; he grew up in Saint Mark Catholic Church and
19 was a past member of Holy Family Parish; he was passionate
20 about flying and earned his pilot's license in 1970; and

21 WHEREAS, Robert Stecher was preceded in death by his
22 parents; his brother, William; and his sister, Patricia Bulfer;
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1 WHEREAS, Robert Stecher is survived by his wife, Carol; his
2 daughters, Melissa (Eric) Siebenthal and Karen Stecher; his
3 son, Robert (Jennifer Nicole) Stecher, Jr.; his 5
4 grandchildren, Hadley, Luke, Emma, Ryan, and Alex; his
5 siblings, Richard (Christine Karl) Stecher, James (Mary
6 Wikoff) Stecher, Ann (Scott) Peterson, Mark (Kim Denman)
7 Stecher, and Thomas (Connie Peterson) Stecher; his
8 brother-in-law, William Bulfer; and several aunts, uncles,
9 nieces, nephews, great-nieces, and great-nephews; therefore,
10 be it

11 RESOLVED, BY THE SENATE OF THE NINETY-NINTH GENERAL
12 ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, that we mourn the passing of
13 Robert Joseph "Bob" Stecher, and extend our sincere condolences
14 to his family, friends, and all who knew and loved him; and be
15 it further

16 RESOLVED, That a suitable copy of this resolution be
17 presented to the family of Robert Stecher as an expression of
18 our deepest sympathy.