



HR0641

LRB103 39732 MST 70191 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 the Very
4 Reverend Stavrofor Nedeljko "Ned" Lunich, who passed away on
5 January 12, 2024; and

6 WHEREAS, Father Lunich was born in Ruzic, Drnis, Dalmacija
7 to Dusan and Anica on January 23, 1938; he attended elementary
8 School in his village and high school in Drnis; he then
9 attended St. Sava Seminary in Beograd, Yugoslavia and
10 graduated in 1959; he continued his education at the
11 Theological College in Beograd, where he studied from 1959 to
12 1962; he spent a year in Italy and came to the United States on
13 March 15, 1963; and

14 WHEREAS, Father Lunich was ordained to the diaconate on
15 February 27, 1965 and to the priesthood on March 15, 1965; his
16 first assignment was as assistant pastor to St. Lazarus
17 "Ravanica" Church in Detroit, Michigan from 1965 to 1969; he
18 then was assigned to St. George Parish in East
19 Chicago-Schererville, Indiana from 1969 to 1974; he was
20 appointed parish priest to St. George Church in Joliet,
21 Illinois in 1974, where he remained until his retirement in
22 December 2014; and

1 WHEREAS, Father Lunich led his congregations spiritually,
2 with support, and progressively; in addition to his priestly
3 duties, he was the business manager of St. George Social
4 Center for 28 years; he faithfully served for Sunday Liturgy
5 and Holy Days, accompanying services with sermons filled with
6 words of encouragement and wisdom; he gave support to
7 parishioners and church organizations during days of both
8 hardship and celebration; he also guided the St. George Church
9 Board and congregation during three integral building
10 projects, the construction of the St. George Social Center in
11 1976, the new St. George Church in 1982, and the parish house
12 in 1988; and

13 WHEREAS, Father Lunich continuously explored higher
14 education, both as a student and a teacher; he graduated with a
15 Master of Arts and a teaching certificate from the University
16 of Detroit and studied at Wayne State in Detroit for a PhD; he
17 taught in the East Chicago Public Schools and at the Purdue
18 University extension in Hammond, Indiana; and

19 WHEREAS, Father Lunich's accomplishments include being
20 awarded all priestly ranks; he was a member of the Diocesan
21 Council and co-editor of the Path of Orthodoxy; he served on
22 many diocesan and Central Church Committees, during his long
23 50 years of service in the Serbian Orthodox Church; he was
24 Metropolitan's Deputy and Bishop's Dean of the Chicago

1 Deanery; he served on the board of directors of the Serb
2 National Federation (SNF) and was a member of the SNF Auditing
3 Board; he also served as the Secretary of the SNF Lodge 97 from
4 1974; and

5 WHEREAS, Father Lunich received the Man of the Year award
6 through SNF twice, exactly 50 years apart in 1973 and 2023; he
7 felt very honored for this recognition of his steadfast faith,
8 profound dedication, and unwavering commitment to preserving
9 Serbian heritage; and

10 WHEREAS, Father Lunich was preceded in death by his
11 parents and his sisters, Milka and Jelka; and

12 WHEREAS, Father Lunich is survived by his son, Stevan; his
13 daughter, Neda; his grandchildren, Gabriella, Aleksandra,
14 Stella, and Michael; and his sisters, Dara, Stana, and Danica;
15 therefore, be it

16 RESOLVED, BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE
17 HUNDRED THIRD GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, that
18 we mourn the passing of the Very Reverend Stavrofor Nedeljko
19 "Ned" Lunich and extend our sincere condolences to his family,
20 friends, and all who knew and loved him; and be it further

21 RESOLVED, That a suitable copy of this resolution be

1 presented to the family of Father Lunich as an expression of
2 our deepest sympathy.