



General Assembly

**Senate Joint  
Resolution No. 33**

*February Session, 2004*

LCO No. **4055**

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Referred to Committee on No Committee

Introduced by:

SEN. SULLIVAN, 5<sup>th</sup> Dist.  
SEN. LOONEY, 11<sup>th</sup> Dist.  
SEN. DELUCA, 32<sup>nd</sup> Dist.  
SEN. CIOTTO, 9<sup>th</sup> Dist.  
SEN. GAFFEY, 13<sup>th</sup> Dist.  
REP. LYONS, 146<sup>th</sup> Dist.

REP. AMANN, 118<sup>th</sup> Dist.  
REP. WARD, 86<sup>th</sup> Dist.  
REP. O'ROURKE, 32<sup>nd</sup> Dist.  
REP. SERRA, 33<sup>rd</sup> Dist.  
REP. HAMM, 34<sup>th</sup> Dist.

**RESOLUTION EXPRESSING SYMPATHY ON THE DEATH OF  
EDWARD J. OPALACZ, SR.**

Resolved by this Assembly:

1        WHEREAS, Edward J. Opalacz, Sr., a native of Middletown, died on  
2        April 1, 2004, at the age of 85, after a long and distinguished career in  
3        public service; and

4        WHEREAS, he was a member of the House of Representatives from  
5        1949 to 1950, and was a State Senator from 1951 to 1956, where he served  
6        on the committees on Agriculture; Appropriations; Contingent Expenses;  
7        Insurance; Military and Veterans' Affairs; Public Buildings and Grounds;  
8        Public Welfare and Human Institutions; and Roads, Rivers and Bridges;  
9        and, during his last term, served as Senate Chairman of the  
10        Appropriations Committee; and

11 WHEREAS, he was born and raised in a farmhouse, attended  
12 Woodrow Wilson High School, and worked at Russell Manufacturing  
13 Company; and

14 WHEREAS, he joined the United States Army in 1942 and served in  
15 the Pacific, participating in the Saipan and Okinawa invasions, and was a  
16 member of the first unit of the American Occupation Force to land in  
17 Japan; and

18 WHEREAS, after his discharge from active service in 1946, he was an  
19 active member of the Army Reserves for many years, retiring at the rank  
20 of colonel; and

21 WHEREAS, patriotism was among his highest values and he was  
22 known for not missing a Memorial Day or Pulaski Day parade, always  
23 marching with the Catholic War Veterans and counting cadence; and

24 WHEREAS, he attended the New Haven College of Commerce,  
25 studying insurance and real estate, and in 1947 began his own insurance  
26 agency, the Opalacz Agency; and

27 WHEREAS, he also began his career in public service in 1947, serving  
28 as Housing Commissioner in the city of Middletown from 1947 to 1952;  
29 and

30 WHEREAS, he began his 36-year career as the city of Middletown's  
31 tax assessor in 1955, serving in that position through the terms of nine  
32 mayors, and seeing the city's grand list grow from \$74 million to \$1.75  
33 billion at the time of his retirement; and

34 WHEREAS, he was instrumental in securing Middletown as the  
35 location for the first regional library, in obtaining funding to build the  
36 lake and walking trails in Wadsworth Falls State Park in 1957, and in  
37 causing Route 66 to be designated as a state highway; and

38 WHEREAS, he was committed to and active in Catholic education,  
39 participating in the original building committee for Xavier and Mercy

40 high schools, and serving as president of the Xavier Home and School  
41 Association and chairman of the Athletic Committee; and

42 WHEREAS, he was an active member of the American Legion,  
43 Catholic War Veterans Post 1166, VFW, B.P.O. Elks Lodge No. 771,  
44 Polish Falcons Nest No. 519, Knights of Columbus Forest City Council  
45 No. 3, Polish National Home, Kosciuszko Society, St. Casimir Society,  
46 and the YMCA, having established the swim team at Northern  
47 Middlesex YMCA; and

48 WHEREAS, he served as a director of Farmers & Mechanics Bank,  
49 corporator of Middlesex Hospital, and trustee of St. Mary's of  
50 Czestochowa Church and most recently served on St. Mary's Church  
51 100th Jubilee Anniversary Committee; and

52 WHEREAS, among the awards he received were the Dr. Francis of  
53 Xavier Award in 1987 of which he was one of the first recipients; the  
54 Gold Legion of Honor in 1984, which is the highest award of the  
55 international Polish Falcons; the Distinguished Citizen of the Year  
56 Award in 1989 by the Middlesex County Chamber of Commerce; and  
57 the Good Scout Community Award; and

58 WHEREAS, he was widely regarded for working effectively with  
59 people holding divergent views, having never lost an election, and was  
60 cited for his success in working with both Democrats and Republicans  
61 in a thesis written by then state legislative aide, and now U. S. Senator,  
62 Joseph Lieberman; and

63 WHEREAS, he was esteemed for his commitment to the people of  
64 Middletown, described as a "fine gentleman and a great human being"  
65 and a "great citizen" of the city of Middletown, by State Senator Biagio  
66 "Billy" Ciotto; and

67 WHEREAS, despite the hours upon hours he spent in helping the  
68 people of the city of Middletown, he always had time for his family,  
69 being described by his family as "first and foremost a family man"; and

70 WHEREAS, he leaves his wife of 56 years, Jane Siemaszko, three  
71 sons, Clifford Opalacz and his wife, Patricia of Waterford, Dr. Edward  
72 Opalacz, Jr., and his wife, Mary of Durham, and Dr. Stanislaus Opalacz  
73 and his wife, Dr. Kayoko of Middletown; his daughter, Teresa Opalacz  
74 and his favorite son-in-law, Ken Landy; a brother, Frank Opalacz of  
75 Middletown; three sisters, Mary Ostafin of Wethersfield, and Violet  
76 Krywinski and Eleanor Novicki, both of Middletown; ten  
77 grandchildren, Edward John Opalacz, III, Brian Opalacz, Genna  
78 Opalacz, Roman Opalacz, Aniella Opalacz, Arissa Opalacz, Stefan  
79 Opalacz, Tucker Landy, Jane "Sheena" Landy and Kendra Landy; and  
80 several nieces and nephews.

81 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Connecticut General  
82 Assembly does hereby express its sincere and heartfelt condolences on  
83 the death of Edward J. Opalacz, Sr., which is a profound loss to the  
84 people of the city of Middletown and of the State of Connecticut; and

85 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this resolution be  
86 presented to the family of Edward J. Opalacz, Sr. as an expression of the  
87 high esteem and affection in which he was held.