

# TOIRMA Update

## In Memoriam

**JERRY KATS**, 85, of Peoria passed away at 11:24 p.m. Thursday, June 16, 2016, at the Illinois Veteran's Home - LaSalle. Jerry was born on Dec. 12, 1930, in Wabeno, Wisconsin, to the late Johan and Ruth Kats. He married Beverly Jeneson in Peoria on Aug. 24, 1952. He is survived by his wife; two daughters, Sara (John) Roach of Bartonville and Judith (Robert) Miller of Park Ridge, IL; one son, Ward (Janice) Kats of Knoxville, IL; five grandchildren, Jennifer (Dennis) Farney, Brian Pearson, Douglas Pearson, Madeline Miller, and Lauren Miller; and three great-grandchildren, Michael, Breanna, and Dennis. A private service was held at Wright & Salmon Mortuary, in Peoria. A celebration of life was held on Sunday, June 26, 2016, at his daughter Sara's restaurant, Aurelio's Pizza, in Peoria. In lieu of flowers, memorials may be made to the Illinois Veteran's Home - La Salle, 1015 O'Connor Ave., LaSalle, IL, 61301.



**Jerry Kats**  
1930-2016

**J**ERRY WAS INTRODUCED to township government when he made a stop at the Township Officials of Illinois office in Astoria, Illinois in the spring of 1985. He was traveling through, noticed the sign, and decided to stop and introduce himself. There he met with George Miller, the Executive Director of TOI. The conversation that day centered upon the fact that many townships were having a difficult time either obtaining insurance for their township or the premium was so extreme, they could not pay it.

After several discussions, it was agreed to proceed with the formation of the program we now know as Township Officials of Illinois Risk Management Association (TOIRMA). It began June 1, 1986 with two members and now, thirty years later, has grown to 1,380 Townships and Road Districts along with 314 Multi-Township Assessment Districts. Early in the discussions, these numbers were thought to be unattainable by many of the "insurance" experts, but it is a testimony to the design and evolving of the program in an attempt to meet the membership needs, which made it so successful.

While a vice president and member of the board of directors of CCMSI, Jerry served as Program Director of TOIRMA from its inception through June 1, 1997, when he became the Executive Director of TOIRMA, a position he held until he retired on July 1, 2006. After he retired, he continued to be involved with TOIRMA as a consultant until 2011.

During the time Jerry was the Executive Director, TOIRMA experienced significant progress. Additional coverages were added as the needs of the growing membership were evaluated. While it was not possible to add everything requested, each did receive a thorough investigation by Jerry and the Board of Trustees.

Jerry's impact on the formation and advancement of this successful program is undeniable. The risk pool he and others "birthed" is a tribute to the township way of "getting things done." A simple solution that, through hard work and perseverance, simply works.

Thank you Jerry Kats!



The following article was originally published in the June 2006 *Township Perspective* magazine. Jerry Kats wrote this piece just as he was retiring as Executive Director of TOIRMA.

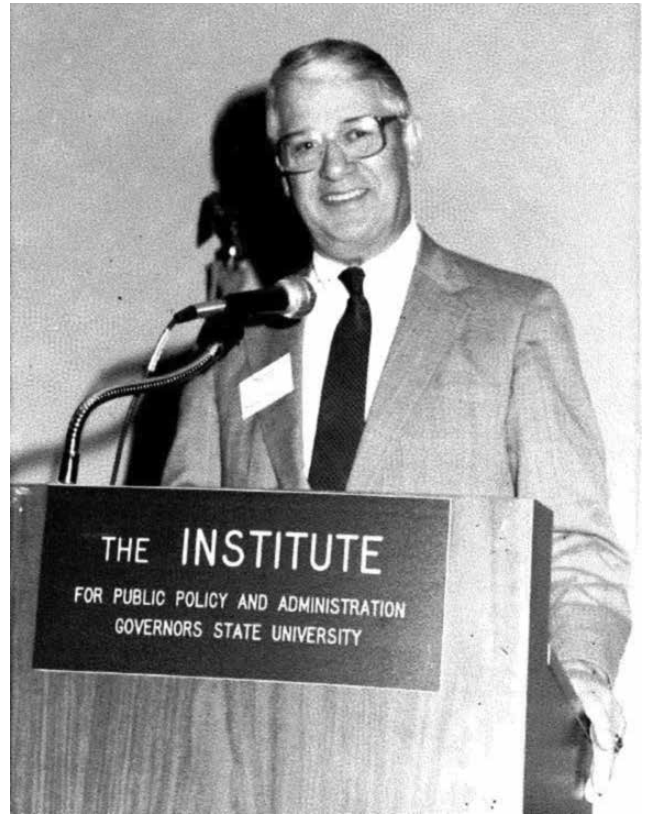
### *It takes a township ...*

**A**S WE ALL REVIEW and contemplate the past, we can agree that 20 years is a long time. However, it appears to be getting shorter all the time.

Consider that the average marriage today does not last that long. Beverly and I have made it through 54 years. And we continue to look forward to the challenges and adventures of the years that lie ahead of us.

June 2006 represents my last month as Executive Director of TOIRMA and the conclusion of a wonderful experience that has been full of rewards and lasting friendships. Just the opportunity to know and work with township people has been an experience I had never anticipated and would not trade for anything.

Watching a great township program develop into one of the largest intergovernmental cooperative pools in the country and achieving a financial solvency reached by very few pools was an unanticipated reality. Yes, we are all proud of these accomplishments, and everyone



associated with township government can be proud of the additional savings their taxpayers received.

The path has been lined with many other successes. Working in cooperation with TOI and township divisions, many goals have been reached. The TOI building, financial assistance to TOI, and the support of township education are just a few examples of TOIRMA's agenda. And the future will hold much more.

It has been a lifetime dream fulfilled.

I want to take this opportunity to thank everyone who diligently worked to make this program the success that it is. So many, many to thank!

It has been said, "It takes a village."

In this case, "It takes a township!!!!!!!"



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