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HOUSE RESOLUTION

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WHEREAS, The members of the Illinois House of Representatives are saddened to learn of the death of Jeffrey N. "Jeff" Long of Naperville, who passed away on May 29, 2018; and

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WHEREAS, Jeff Long was born in Lakewood, Ohio on May 5, 1964; he grew up in Naperville and Batavia and graduated from Batavia High School; he then attended Eastern Illinois University, where he worked at a radio station and for the school newspaper; and

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WHEREAS, Jeff Long was a sports writer for the Aurora Beacon-News for 23 years; he covered local college and professional sporting events, including the champion runs of the Chicago Bulls; in May 2005, he joined the Fox Valley Park District as the public affairs and communications manager; he wrote columns for the park district that appeared in local newspapers and was instrumental in reestablishing the Mid-American Canoe & Kayak Race; the annual race, which started in 1961, had steadily declined in popularity, since the district limited the race to 1,000 boats; he gave the race new life when he made changes, such as shortening the race from its original 17 miles to ten, adding a six-mile version that appealed to less-experienced canoeists, and developing

1 detailed guides on the river's condition, including the
2 locations of low spots; he also suggested opening the race to
3 kayakers; and

4 WHEREAS, According to a colleague, Jeff Long was "a career
5 journalist and that meant he was a listener...he was a
6 professional listener and when colleagues talked with him he
7 always had this grin of understanding...there was always this
8 rapport and respect he had when dealing with people"; he was an
9 active outdoorsman and enjoyed kayaking, biking, fishing,
10 hiking, and canoeing; he liked being away from the excitement
11 and once spent ten days cycling to a family reunion in Canada;
12 and

13 WHEREAS, Jeff Long was preceded in death by his father,
14 Gregory Long; and

15 WHEREAS, Jeff Long is survived by his wife of 24 years,
16 Jenean (Mickey) Long; his children, Autumn Long and Trevor
17 Long; his brothers, Brad (Laurie) Long, Steve (Jenny) Long,
18 Adam (Katie) Long, and Devin Long; his mother, Cynthia Bratta;
19 his stepmother, Linda Long; and his many nieces and nephews;
20 therefore, be it

21 RESOLVED, BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE
22 HUNDREDTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, that we

1 mourn the passing of Jeffrey N. "Jeff" Long and extend our
2 sincere condolences to his family, friends, and all who knew
3 and loved him; and be it further

4 RESOLVED, That a suitable copy of this resolution be
5 presented to the family of Jeff Long as an expression of our
6 deepest sympathy.