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HOUSE RESOLUTION

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WHEREAS, Naperville icon, A. George Pradel, passed from
3 this life on September 4, 2018, one day before his 81st
4 birthday; and

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WHEREAS, George Pradel was born in Hyde Park, but was a
6 lifelong resident of Naperville after his family moved to town
7 in 1939 when he was two; and

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WHEREAS, George Pradel graduated from Naperville Community
9 High School and then served his country and community in the
10 U.S. Marine Corps; and

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WHEREAS, Upon returning to Naperville, George Pradel began
12 working for the Naperville Police Department in 1966, where he
13 quickly earned the nickname Officer Friendly for his love of
14 visiting local schools and teaching children about safety; and

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WHEREAS, To bring his safety message home to local
16 children, George Pradel founded Safety Town in 1977, a
17 miniature village dedicated to teaching about pedestrian,
18 bike, and railroad safety; and

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WHEREAS, Young George Pradel met Patricia Burke on a set-up
20 put together by his sister; they fell in love and were married

1 in 1966; and

2 WHEREAS, George Pradel retired from the Naperville Police
3 Department as a Lieutenant when he was elected to his first
4 term as Mayor of Naperville in 1995; and

5 WHEREAS, George Pradel served 20 years as Mayor of
6 Naperville, becoming the city's longest-serving mayor; and

7 WHEREAS, During his tenure, Mayor George Pradel was a
8 tireless champion for his hometown; and

9 WHEREAS, To meet his growing city's needs, George Pradel
10 helped create Naperville's Senior Task Force and new city
11 positions of Chairman of Chinese Outreach and Chairmen of
12 Indian Outreach; and

13 WHEREAS, With safety always a paramount concern, as Mayor,
14 George Pradel swore in or promoted 371 officers to the
15 Naperville Police Department; and

16 WHEREAS, George Pradel never ceased his work on behalf of
17 local children, helping bring the DuPage Children's Museum to
18 the city and participating in anti-cyberbullying videos; and

19 WHEREAS, Mayor George Pradel was devoted to all in the

1 Naperville community and participated annually in many events
2 for charities and health campaigns; he recruited children to
3 ride in his Big Wheel Brigade which participated in holiday
4 parades; and

5 WHEREAS, Upon leaving office in 2015, George Pradel was
6 awarded the title Mayor Emeritus which allowed him to continue
7 to represent his beloved city at local events; and

8 WHEREAS, Generations of Naperville families returned his
9 love and devotion and honored him in numerous ways, including
10 renaming Safety Town, his proudest achievement, in his and his
11 wife's honor, erecting a sculpture of Officer Friendly greeting
12 children, naming a park and a street in his honor, and even
13 selling a George Pradel bobblehead; and

14 WHEREAS, For five decades, George Pradel personified
15 Naperville; there wasn't anything that George Pradel wouldn't
16 do for Naperville or for a friend, and he considered everyone
17 who lived in town a friend; and

18 WHEREAS, George Pradel will be greatly missed by his
19 children Carol, Gary, and George, his six grandchildren and
20 four great grandchildren, and by all who knew him; therefore,
21 be it

1 RESOLVED, BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE
2 HUNDREDTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, that we
3 wish to express our deepest condolences to A. George Pradel's
4 family, and we wish to celebrate the life and countless
5 contributions of this Naperville icon; and be it further

6 RESOLVED, That a suitable copy of this resolution be
7 presented to the Pradel family as an expression of our deepest
8 sympathy.