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SENATE RESOLUTION

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WHEREAS, The members of the Illinois Senate are saddened to learn of the death of Gary D. Niebur of Edwardsville, who passed away on May 2, 2020; and

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WHEREAS, Gary Niebur was born in Wood River to Melvin and Edna (Huelsman) Niebur on September 13, 1955; he grew up on Dunlap Lake and spent many summers playing Little League and Legion Post 199 baseball; he loved to recount the story of the home run that made its way from the ball field to the LeClaire water tower; he married Debra Werden at St. Boniface Church in Edwardsville on July 15, 1983; and

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WHEREAS, Gary Niebur served as chief executive officer of the Edwardsville YMCA for 35 years, accepting the position in 1982; he established the financial assistance scholarship program to ensure that every resident could participate in YMCA programming, regardless of their ability to pay; under his leadership, the organization grew steadily in membership, expanded to three locations, and achieved record levels of private donations to fund capital improvements by the time of his retirement in 2018; upon his retirement, the Edwardsville YMCA Board of Directors named the ESIC facility the "Niebur Center" in his honor; and

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1 WHEREAS, Gary Niebur began his career with the City of
2 Edwardsville as a teenager, doing lawn maintenance for the
3 parks and recreation department; in 1985, he was elected to the
4 city council, where he spent eight years as an alderman; in
5 1993, he began his first term as mayor of Edwardsville, a
6 position he held for 20 years; and

7 WHEREAS, Gary Niebur was active with multiple
8 organizations, including the Edwardsville Rotary Club, the
9 Anderson Hospital Foundation Board of Directors, the Greater
10 Edwardsville Area Foundation, the First Cloverleaf Bank Board
11 of Directors, and the Metro East Park and Recreation District;
12 he was also a member of the Illinois Municipal League, where he
13 served as president in 2002; and

14 WHEREAS, Gary Niebur was the recipient of numerous
15 community service awards and accolades, including the Jaycees
16 Ten Outstanding Young Persons in the State of Illinois, the
17 Rotary Club International Paul Harris Fellowship Award, the Boy
18 Scouts of America Distinguished Citizen Award, the SIUE
19 Religious Center Interfaith Award, and the Edwardsville Glen
20 Carbon Chamber of Commerce Lifetime Achievement Award; and

21 WHEREAS, Gary Niebur loved last minute road trips with
22 anyone that would ride along and most frequently visited Lake
23 of the Ozarks in Missouri and Miramar Beach, Florida; he often

1 bragged about the peak of his golf career, winning the 1995
2 Sunset Hills Member Guest Championship with his dear friend
3 Gordon Broom; anyone that had the pleasure of being seated next
4 to him at a social gathering was guaranteed to have an
5 entertaining evening of laughter and story telling; and

6 WHEREAS, Gary Niebur was preceded in death by his father,
7 Melvin Niebur; and

8 WHEREAS, Gary Niebur is survived by his wife, Debra; his
9 daughters, Ashley (Josh) Sharp, Amanda Niebur, and Abby Niebur;
10 his son, Andrew Niebur; his grandchildren, Blair and Brady
11 Sharp; his brother, Randy (Jo) Niebur; his sister, Jan (Mark)
12 Muckensturm; his sister, Gail (Roy) Eagle; his brother, Mark
13 Niebur; and numerous nieces, nephews, and extended family;
14 therefore, be it

15 RESOLVED, BY THE SENATE OF THE ONE HUNDRED FIRST GENERAL
16 ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, that we mourn the passing of
17 Gary D. Niebur and extend our sincere condolences to his
18 family, friends, and all who knew and loved him; and be it
19 further

20 RESOLVED, That a suitable copy of this resolution be
21 presented to the family of Gary Niebur as an expression of our
22 deepest sympathy.