



HR0653

LRB100 15293 ALS 30228 r

1 HOUSE RESOLUTION

2 WHEREAS, The members of the Illinois House of  
3 Representatives are saddened to learn of the death of Benny A.  
4 Leonardo, who passed away on October 1, 2017; and

5 WHEREAS, Benny Leonardo was the founder and owner of Mr.  
6 Benny's Steak & Lobster in Matteson and Mokena; from his first  
7 restaurant's beginnings on Western Avenue in Chicago Heights,  
8 he was widely regarded as a classic restaurateur and raconteur,  
9 skilled at remembering his customers' names and favorite dishes  
10 and always ready with stories and jokes about life, politics,  
11 and family; and

12 WHEREAS, The success of Mr. Benny's in Matteson led the  
13 family to build a second restaurant in Mokena, which was one of  
14 the first buildings specifically designed as a restaurant in  
15 the area; the Leonardo family created a distinctive and  
16 inviting dining experience for the entire family; and

17 WHEREAS, Benny Leonardo loved his family, restaurant,  
18 hunting, fishing, and endless conversations with patrons; and

19 WHEREAS, Benny Leonardo was preceded in death by his  
20 parents, Dan and Mary Leonardo; and his brother, Dominick  
21 (Sandy) Leonardo; and

1           WHEREAS, Benny Leonardo is survived by his beloved wife of  
2   67 years, Joy; his children, Vicki Bihler, Nick, Connie (Tom)  
3   Shander, and Larry Leonardo; his grandchildren, Renee (Ed)  
4   Hayes, Lauren (Andrew) Sweeten, Paul Bihler, Ben (Jessica)  
5   Shander, Christopher and Nicholas Shander, and Alexandria,  
6   Christian, and Francesca Leonardo; his great-grandchildren, AJ  
7   Sweeten and Dylan Hayes; his brother, Dan (Janice) Leonardo;  
8   his sister, Phyllis Leonardo; and his many nieces, nephews, and  
9   friends; therefore, be it

10           RESOLVED, BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE  
11   HUNDREDTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, that we  
12   mourn the passing of Benny A. Leonardo and extend our sincere  
13   condolences to his family, friends, and all who knew and loved  
14   him; and be it further

15           RESOLVED, That a suitable copy of this resolution be  
16   presented to the family of Benny Leonardo as an expression of  
17   our deepest sympathy.