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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 Christo Mathew "Chris" Dragatsis of Joliet, who passed away on February 21, 2018; and

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WHEREAS, Chris Dragatsis was born in Joliet to proud Greek immigrants Mathew and Anastasia (Naphliotou) Dragatsis on July 31, 1930; he graduated from Joliet Township High School and received an associate's degree from Joliet Junior College; he joined the United States Army and served in Korea, first in the Tank Company 129 Infantry Division 23rd Regiment; he was a First Lieutenant from 1953 until 1955; and

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WHEREAS, After his honorable discharge from the Army, Chris Dragatsis returned to Joliet where he worked at Blockson Chemical and later at Olin Matheson; in 1962, he began his career in the insurance industry with new England Financial; he retired in 2004; during his working years, he also owned Frosty Tips Ice Cream stores, Hoffman Glass, and The Joliet Donut Company; he was also one of the original partners in the Shorewood Shopping Center, and he developed several residential apartment complexes throughout Joliet; and

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WHEREAS, Chris Dragatsis was well known for his love of the City of Joliet and was inspired to make Joliet a great place to

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1 live, work, and enjoy its culture; he helped with many
2 community projects, including the campaign to "Save the
3 Rialto," which helped bring the theater under public ownership
4 and avoid demolition, and "Save Central," which prevented the
5 closing of Joliet Central; he was instrumental in the
6 reconstruction of the downtown library and also helped to
7 develop the library branch on Black Road; and

8 WHEREAS, Chris Dragatsis was honored with many awards,
9 including the Joliet/Will County Project Pride Award in 2014;
10 one of his most memorable and well-deserved events was being
11 selected for Honor Flight Chicago in 2016; and

12 WHEREAS, Chris Dragatsis was a lifelong and devoted member
13 of All Saints Greek Orthodox Church, where he served on the
14 parish council; he was a member of numerous organizations,
15 including Ahepa, where he was a past President; and the Mykonos
16 Society, where he was an honorary member; and

17 WHEREAS, Chris Dragatsis was preceded in death by his
18 parents and his wife, Mary (Kallas) Dragatsis; and

19 WHEREAS, Chris Dragatsis is survived by his children, Ann
20 Dragatsis, Stacey Dragatsis Neese, Mathew (Evelyn) Dragatsis,
21 and James (Stephanie) Dragatsis; his grandchildren,
22 Christopher and Kyle Neese, Christo and Marine Dragatsis, and

1 Anastasia, Alexa, and Caroline Dragatsis; his sister,
2 Katherine (Dragatsis) Deimer; his many nieces and nephews; his
3 great-nieces, great-nephews; and his great-great-niece and
4 nephew; therefore, be it

5 RESOLVED, BY THE SENATE OF THE ONE HUNDREDTH GENERAL
6 ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, that we mourn the passing of
7 Christo Mathew "Chris" Dragatsis and extend our sincere
8 condolences to his family, friends, and all who knew and loved
9 him; and be it further

10 RESOLVED, That a suitable copy of this resolution be
11 presented to the family of Chris Dragatsis as an expression of
12 our deepest sympathy.