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LRB101 12056 ALS 59505 r

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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 Patrick J. "Pat" O'Connell of Channahon, who passed away on March 31, 2019; and

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WHEREAS, Pat O'Connell was born to Dale and Estelle (Jones) O'Connell Sr. on February 12, 1957; he graduated from Joliet East High School in 1975; he attended Millikin University, where he was a proud brother of the Tau Kappa Epsilon fraternity, and graduated in 1979; he earned master's degrees from George Williams College and Governors State University; and

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WHEREAS, Pat O'Connell was a teacher and coach for over 40 years and worked at Joliet East, Joliet Central, and Joliet Junior College; he had many accomplishments, including helping coach Joliet Central to the 1985 IHSA State Wrestling Championship, spearheading the revival of the Joliet Junior College wrestling program, and being inducted into the Illinois Wrestling Coaches and Officials Association Hall of Fame in 2017; he was dedicated to the success of his students and athletes, and he made a tremendous impression on the students he taught; his example inspired countless other teachers, coaches, and future educators to strive to do better; and

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1           WHEREAS, Pat O'Connell was an athlete; he wrestled and ran  
2 cross country and track in high school and in college; after  
3 college he played rugby for the Chicago Blaze for over 30  
4 years; in his later years, he played for the Manhattan  
5 Shamrocks; he was known for his ability to organize gatherings,  
6 including annual Bears tailgate parties in his backyard, annual  
7 trips to Las Vegas and Cocoa Beach, Jimmy Buffet concerts with  
8 his daughter, and visits to Wrigley Field; he was an  
9 extraordinary organizer, gift giver, pickle ball player, and  
10 world traveler; and

11           WHEREAS, Pat O'Connell was preceded in death by his  
12 parents; his father-in-law, Gerald Tannenbaum; and his cat,  
13 Spike; and

14           WHEREAS, Pat O'Connell is survived by his wife of 26 years,  
15 Susan; his children, Patrick and Molly; his siblings, Dale  
16 (Karen) O'Connell Jr., Kathy (Clint) Forsyth, Ginny (Mike)  
17 Deegan, Mike (Tina) O'Connell, and Bill (Denise) O'Connell; his  
18 aunt, Pat Dickinson; his mother-in-law, Sharon Tannenbaum; his  
19 sisters-in-law, Jodi (John) Ancel, Angie (the late Larry)  
20 McKay, and Staci (Greg) Geistler; his brother-in-law, Doug  
21 (Yocelin) Tannenbaum; his many nieces, nephews, great-nieces,  
22 great-nephews, and cousins; and his cats, Shake and Elvis;  
23 therefore, be it

1           RESOLVED, BY THE SENATE OF THE ONE HUNDRED FIRST GENERAL  
2 ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, that we mourn the passing of  
3 Patrick J. "Pat" O'Connell and extend our sincere condolences  
4 to his family, friends, and all who knew and loved him; and be  
5 it further

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