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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 Captain Chancellor Alfonso "Pete" Tzomes of Milan, who passed away on June 13, 2019; and

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WHEREAS, Captain Tzomes was born in Williamsport, Pennsylvania on December 30, 1944; he was raised by James C. and Charlotte E. (Hill) Tzomes; he married Carolyn Eason in Rock Island on July 14, 2007; and

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WHEREAS, Captain Tzomes graduated from the United States Naval Academy in 1967; he had sea duty assignments on five nuclear-powered submarines; in May 1983, he made history by becoming the first African American to command a U.S. submarine during a change of command ceremony aboard the USS Houston; he also had the pleasure of being assigned as Commanding Officer, Recruit Training Command, Great Lakes from June 1990 until June 1992; he served as a member of the Pacific Fleet Nuclear Propulsion Examining Board, as a Force Operations Officer on the staff of Commander, Submarine Force, U.S. Pacific Fleet, and as Assistant Chief of Staff for Operations/Inspector General at the Naval base in Charleston, South Carolina, from which he retired in 1994; and

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WHEREAS, Captain Tzomes was proud of the recognition he

1 received for his achievements while serving as the Director in
2 the Equal Opportunity Division of the Bureau of Naval Personnel
3 and as the personal advisor to the Chief of Naval Personnel on
4 equal opportunity issues; in 1991, he received the Black
5 Engineer of the Year Award for his efforts in paving the path
6 for leading the Navy's equal opportunity programs into the 21st
7 century; and

8 WHEREAS, After departing the Navy, Captain Tzomes served as
9 a Vice President at Bank One for one year; he then worked as a
10 utility manager in the nuclear division of Exelon Corporation,
11 where he held various leadership positions while primarily
12 assigned to the Quad Cities Generating Station, until July of
13 2012; and

14 WHEREAS, Captain Tzomes continued to keep abreast of Navy
15 and military issues through his affiliation with the Naval
16 Submarine League, the U.S. Naval Institute, the United States
17 Submarine Veterans, the Navy League, the Military Officers
18 Association, and the American Legion; he was also a member of
19 the NAACP and supported the USO; as a career submarine officer,
20 he was proud of his service; and

21 WHEREAS, Captain Tzomes is survived by his wife of 12
22 years, Carolyn Eason-Tzomes; his son and granddaughter from a
23 previous marriage, Chancellor A. Tzomes II and Mariana Tzomes;

1 and his many other family members and friends; therefore, be it

2 RESOLVED, BY THE SENATE OF THE ONE HUNDRED FIRST GENERAL
3 ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, that we mourn the passing of
4 Captain Chancellor Alfonso "Pete" Tzomes and extend our sincere
5 condolences to his family, friends, and all who knew and loved
6 him; and be it further

7 RESOLVED, That a suitable copy of this resolution be
8 presented to the family of Captain Pete Tzomes as an expression
9 of our deepest sympathy.