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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 Kenneth "Ken" Behrens of Bloomington, who passed away on December 1, 2019; and

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WHEREAS, Ken Behrens was born in Chicago Heights to Norbert A. and Irene E. Behrens on June 11, 1948; he graduated from Illinois State University in 1970, where he was the program director at WGLT his senior year; he married Cynthia Hoefler on December 23, 1979; and

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WHEREAS, Ken Behrens joined WJBC and hosted the popular, top-rated Ken Behrens Show for over 32 years; he was a gifted comedian and entertainer; his stand-up comedy was enjoyed nationwide, from the Comedy Store in Los Angeles to the Sabre Room in Chicago; he always kept his family and friends entertained; he was also an accomplished piano player; he hosted a local CNN news show for two years and worked in marketing for People's Bank and with Connoisseur Media, where one year he won Connoisseur's National Salesperson of the Year; and

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WHEREAS, Ken Behrens appeared in several plays at Conklin's Barn Dinner Theatre in Goodfield and was the house emcee at Peoria's Madison Theater, where he appeared with Drew Carey; he

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1 also appeared at the Palmer House in Chicago; he was proud of
2 an original joke that was published in Reader's Digest and
3 later included in a "Best Of" compilation; over the decades, he
4 interviewed countless celebrities, authors, actors, and
5 comedians; he retired in 2002; that same year, the Illinois
6 House of Representatives declared March 1 as Ken Behrens Day;
7 and

8 WHEREAS, In recent years, Ken Behrens was often behind the
9 wheel of his antique Ford automobiles; he was active with the
10 Prairie State Model T Club and in the McLean County Antique Car
11 Club, where he served as president and vice president; and

12 WHEREAS, Ken Behrens enjoyed black-and-white films from
13 the Golden Age of cinema, all things Disney, Jack Benny, and
14 Laurel and Hardy; he belonged to the IATSE Local 193, the
15 International Association of Theatrical Stage Employees and
16 Motion Picture Operators of the United States and Canada; for
17 many years, he showed movies at Capen Auditorium on the
18 Illinois State University campus; and

19 WHEREAS, Ken Behrens was preceded in death by his parents;
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21 WHEREAS, Ken Behrens is survived by his wife, Cynthia; his
22 daughters, Katherine (Matt) Shanks and Kimberly (Andrew)

1 Kaufman; his grandson, Kevin Kaufman; his aunt, Leora Cross;
2 and numerous cousins, sisters-in-law, brothers-in-law, nieces,
3 and nephews; therefore, be it

4 RESOLVED, BY THE SENATE OF THE ONE HUNDRED FIRST GENERAL
5 ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, that we mourn the passing of
6 Kenneth "Ken" Behrens and extend our sincere condolences to his
7 family, friends, and all who knew and loved him; and be it
8 further

9 RESOLVED, That a suitable copy of this resolution be
10 presented to the family of Ken Behrens as an expression of our
11 deepest sympathy.