



HR0073

LRB102 15921 ECR 21291 r

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HOUSE RESOLUTION

2           WHEREAS, Anthony "Tony" J. Leone Jr. was born on September  
3 1, 1950 and raised in Springfield; after schooling at St.  
4 Aloysius Grade School and Griffin High School, he attended  
5 Springfield College, Illinois State University, and Sangamon  
6 State University, earning degrees in Commerce and in  
7 Economics; and

8           WHEREAS, Developing an early interest in Illinois  
9 politics, Tony Leone became an officer with the Sangamon  
10 County Young Republicans and with the Sangamon State  
11 University College Republicans; he served as an organizer for  
12 a list of elected Illinois leaders, including key  
13 Springfield-area organizational roles for former  
14 Representative Josephine K. Oblinger and former State  
15 Representative Irv Smith; and

16           WHEREAS, With his credentials in recordkeeping and  
17 political organization work, Tony Leone was chosen as  
18 Assistant Clerk of the Illinois House for the 81st General  
19 Assembly, in which capacity he served ex officio on the board  
20 of the Legislative Information System (LIS), which was then a  
21 newly-created General Assembly support agency that was  
22 beginning to move toward pioneer computerization of the  
23 operations of the Illinois legislature; and

1           WHEREAS, As a result of the November 1980 election, the  
2           Republicans took majority control of the House in the 82nd  
3           General Assembly; Speaker George Ryan then named Tony Leone to  
4           be Clerk of the House; as the Clerk of the House during the  
5           final two years of the 177-member Illinois House of  
6           Representatives, and with only rudimentary electronic  
7           machinery to help out, he faced organizational and  
8           record-keeping challenges that the current 118-member Illinois  
9           House of Representatives can only imagine; and

10           WHEREAS, With the partisan changeover in the November 1982  
11           election, Tony Leone once again became Assistant Clerk of the  
12           House, serving in this role from 1983 through 1992; during the  
13           1980s, he also filled many other posts of citizen leadership  
14           in Springfield, Sangamon County, and statewide Illinois,  
15           including the chairmanships of the Property Tax Appeals Board  
16           (PTAB) and the Sangamon County Board of Review; and

17           WHEREAS, Long fascinated with the process of campaigning  
18           and electing women and men to office, Tony Leone served as an  
19           officer on countless electoral boards and commissions,  
20           including service as the Supervisor of Public Disclosure for  
21           the Illinois State Board of Elections, the Chief Clerk of the  
22           Sangamon County Election Office, and the Assistant Chief Clerk  
23           of the Springfield Board of Elections; he served as an

1 election official on the city, county, and state levels and  
2 believed that he was the only person in Illinois to have done  
3 so; and

4 WHEREAS, Moving to the private sector, Tony Leone founded  
5 Leone & Associates in 1995; retaining and intensifying his  
6 interest in and support of the atmosphere of Springfield's  
7 Illinois Capitol Complex, he redeveloped the Complex-adjacent  
8 Pasfield House, a historic (1896) Victorian mansion, into a  
9 bed and breakfast and Springfield showplace; the Pasfield  
10 House also served as a place for him to house his legendary  
11 collection of Illinois and U.S. political memorabilia; and

12 WHEREAS, As a champion of Springfield, Illinois heritage  
13 preservation, Tony Leone was named the 2011 Historic  
14 Preservationist of the Year by the Illinois Historic Sites  
15 Commission; in 2019, he co-authored "Springfield's Celebrated  
16 Horseshoe Sandwich" that is the definitive published history  
17 of the Illinois delicacy; this book was published as part of  
18 the American Palate series offered by the History Press; and

19 WHEREAS, In 2010, in line with Tony Leone's longtime  
20 championship of the history of Illinois, former Governor Pat  
21 Quinn appointed him to the board of the Illinois Historic  
22 Preservation Agency; and

1           WHEREAS, On Wednesday, February 3, 2021, Tony Leone's  
2 friends were saddened to hear that the longtime political  
3 organizer, Illinois General Assembly staff member, election  
4 official, state official, showplace host, and author had  
5 passed away at age 70 in his home town of Springfield after  
6 fighting against a cascading series of health challenges;  
7 therefore, be it

8           RESOLVED, BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE  
9 HUNDRED SECOND GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, that  
10 we mourn the death of former Clerk of the Illinois House of  
11 Representatives Anthony "Tony" J. Leone Jr. and remember the  
12 tireless work that he performed for the election process and  
13 for the people of Springfield, the people of Sangamon County,  
14 and the people of central Illinois; and be it further

15           RESOLVED, That suitable copies of this resolution be  
16 presented to Tony Leone's longtime special friend, Cathy  
17 Cragoe, and to his goddaughter, Karle Giganti Valentino.