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HOUSE RESOLUTION

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WHEREAS, Future Attorney General Jim Ryan was born on February 21, 1946; a native of Illinois, he was born in Chicago; he moved to the suburb of Villa Park with his family; and

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WHEREAS, Growing up in the church, young Jim Ryan found a series of mentors and inspirations in the DuPage County educational institutions affiliated with the Order of Saint Benedict; he attended Saint Procopius Academy, an all-boys school at the time of his attendance, and then Saint Procopius College; and

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WHEREAS, With his home in Villa Park and his place of schooling in Lisle, before his eyes, Jim Ryan could see how DuPage County and the United States were growing and changing in the 1950s and 1960s; throughout his life, he would be a voice for ordered change and thoughtful continuity; and

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WHEREAS, Graduating from college in 1968, Jim Ryan chose the law for his life and began his studies at Chicago-Kent College of Law; in 1971, he received his degree and passed the bar exam, soon commencing work as a prosecutor within the Office of the DuPage County State's Attorney; and

1 WHEREAS, After experience as both a senior member of the
2 DuPage County State's Attorney's office and in private
3 practice, Jim Ryan sought the nomination of the Republican
4 Party for DuPage County State's Attorney in 1984 and was his
5 party's nominee in the general election; he became the chief
6 prosecutor in Illinois's second-most-populous county; and

7 WHEREAS, During Jim Ryan's legal leadership in DuPage
8 County, the population of the county grew from 658,835 in the
9 1980 United States Census to 781,666 in 1990, with further
10 growth towards 904,161 in 2000; this growth created new
11 opportunities and challenges, including the massive office
12 move associated with the opening of the new DuPage County
13 Government Center in 1990 on the outskirts of the county seat
14 of Wheaton; and

15 WHEREAS, As state's attorney, Jim Ryan won the praise of
16 his neighbors for the operations of his key office during this
17 time of growth and change, winning reelection in 1988 and
18 1992; also respected by his fellow state's attorneys, he was
19 chosen as president of the Illinois State's Attorneys
20 Association, thus becoming the chief voice in Springfield of
21 solutions to the challenges faced by professional prosecutors;
22 and

23 WHEREAS, With a tough-on-crime image derived from his ten

1 years as DuPage County's lead prosecutor, Jim Ryan was
2 nominated by the Republicans in 1994 to be the Attorney
3 General of Illinois; when he won the statewide election in
4 November 1994, this switched control of the Attorney General's
5 Office between the two political parties; and

6 WHEREAS, Despite the partisan nature of politics, as
7 attorney general, Jim Ryan saw it as his mission to work
8 closely with prosecutors, law enforcement officials, and
9 leaders from all over Illinois, including his former fellow
10 state's attorney Richard M. Daley of Cook County, a Democrat,
11 who had become the mayor of Chicago; and

12 WHEREAS, One of the newest authorizations granted to the
13 Office of the Illinois Attorney General when Jim Ryan took
14 over in 1995 was the authorization to convene statewide grand
15 juries; the Statewide Grand Jury Act (1991) had raised serious
16 concerns among many county state's attorneys; and

17 WHEREAS, As an experienced former state's attorney
18 himself, with ties of friendship and acquaintanceship across
19 Illinois, Jim Ryan brokered the current system of written and
20 unwritten agreements that has made the Statewide Grand Jury
21 Bureau within the Office of the Attorney General a key element
22 in the Illinois prosecution of multi-county cases, especially
23 cases involving guns, drugs, or computers; and

1 WHEREAS, By 1995, Illinois and its Medicaid system, paid
2 for by Illinois taxpayers, had incurred billions of dollars in
3 current and future healthcare billings for treatments provided
4 to Medicaid-eligible Illinois residents who had smoked
5 cigarettes and who had then developed cancer and other health
6 conditions related to smoking; and

7 WHEREAS, In November 1996, the State of Illinois, with Jim
8 Ryan in the lead in his capacity as attorney general, filed a
9 major lawsuit against the U.S. tobacco industry, including all
10 of the major firms that worked together at that time to
11 dominate the manufacture and supply of cigarettes; and

12 WHEREAS, This lawsuit required an unprecedented level of
13 interstate cooperation between the attorneys general of the
14 states that had filed lawsuits of this type; Jim Ryan and his
15 colleagues had to deploy full-time coordination teams to share
16 data and case-law information in order to create a united
17 front for their litigation; and

18 WHEREAS, Due in part to his own hard work and with the
19 active cooperation of many other attorneys general from across
20 the United States, Jim Ryan was able to reach and announce a
21 landmark settlement with the tobacco companies in 1998; the
22 agreement included a future cash flow for the plaintiff states

1 derived from moneys taken in by suppliers of cigarettes; and

2 WHEREAS, Under this settlement, the industry also barred
3 itself, on a nationwide basis, from many forms of tobacco
4 advertising, including advertising featuring cartoons and
5 anthropomorphic mascots (Joe Camel) designed to attract
6 underage customers; and

7 WHEREAS, During the 24 years since the announcement of
8 this settlement, Illinois and its taxpayers have received
9 payments from the tobacco industry that now total \$9.1
10 billion, money that has not had to be levied in taxes; and

11 WHEREAS, The Office of the Illinois Attorney General now
12 routinely contacts, talks to, communicates with, and
13 cooperates in a wide variety of policy activities and
14 litigation activities with other attorneys general in other
15 U.S. states; this pattern of interstate cooperation between
16 the chief lawyers of the separate states is another enduring
17 legacy of Jim Ryan and illustrates his commitment to
18 cooperation, change, and continuity; and

19 WHEREAS, After the announcement of the tobacco settlement,
20 Jim Ryan ran for re-election in 1998, winning in a landslide;
21 and

1 WHEREAS, Urged by many across Illinois to run for Governor
2 of Illinois in 2002 upon the retirement of George Ryan, Jim
3 Ryan did so and was the Republican Party nominee;
4 unfortunately, the names of George Ryan and the Democratic
5 nominee for the same office, Rod Blagojevich, echoed louder in
6 the press and in the minds of voters than the honored name of
7 Jim Ryan; and

8 WHEREAS, After leaving the office of attorney general at
9 the end of 2002, Jim Ryan returned to his educational home, now
10 Benedictine University, as an instructor and teacher in
11 political science and in criminal justice; and

12 WHEREAS, In 2005, Jim Ryan and his friends established the
13 Center for Civic Leadership at Benedictine University as an
14 ongoing center of teaching and training for young adults,
15 inside and outside the Benedictine student body, in civil,
16 open dialogue across political boundaries; and

17 WHEREAS, In the years following 2003, Jim Ryan also
18 practiced law at Gardner, Carton & Douglas in Chicago and was
19 of counsel at Jim Ryan & Associates in Naperville; and

20 WHEREAS, Throughout his life as a lawyer, public official,
21 and teacher, Jim Ryan was sustained by the love of his family;
22 in 2022, this included his wife, Marie; his son, John, and

1 John's wife, Stacie; his son, Jim, and Jim's wife, Jennifer;
2 his son, Matthew, and Matthew's wife, Melissa; and his
3 daughter, Amy Ryan; and many grandchildren; and

4 WHEREAS, Jim Ryan's life included the devastating losses
5 of his daughter Anne Marie "Annie" Ryan and his son Patrick J.
6 Ryan, whom he always loved; and

7 WHEREAS, On June 12, 2022, the life of former Attorney
8 General Jim Ryan came to an end in DuPage County, his home
9 county; in an hour of great partisanship, his legacy was
10 praised by leading Illinoisans from both sides of the
11 political aisle; therefore, be it

12 RESOLVED, BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE
13 HUNDRED SECOND GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, that
14 we join in mourning the death of former Attorney General Jim
15 Ryan, an honored son of Illinois; and be it further

16 RESOLVED, That we remember the enduring contributions made
17 by Jim Ryan to the professional operations of the lead
18 public-sector attorneys of Illinois, states' attorneys, and
19 the Office of the Attorney General alike; and be it further

20 RESOLVED, That a suitable copy of this resolution should
21 be presented to the wife of Attorney General Jim Ryan, Annie

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1 Ryan.