



HR1009

LRB102 29778 MST 41849 r

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HOUSE RESOLUTION

2 WHEREAS, The members of the Illinois House of
3 Representatives wish to recognize the life of Chicago news
4 columnist Ray Hanania; and

5 WHEREAS, Ray Hanania was born into a Christian Palestinian
6 Arab American family in Chicago, the son of immigrants; his
7 mother, Georgette, was born in Bethlehem and lived adjacent to
8 the Church of the Nativity, where relatives continue to serve,
9 and his father, George, was born in Jerusalem; and

10 WHEREAS, Ray Hanania was raised in Chicago and attended
11 Chicago Public Schools; he attended Warren Elementary School,
12 Bowen High School, Bogan High School, and Little Flower School
13 and graduated from Reavis High School; and

14 WHEREAS, Ray Hanania followed the example of his father,
15 who served in the OSS, his Uncle Moses, who served on a
16 battleship during World War II, and his brother, John, who
17 served in the U.S. Marines; in 1972, he enlisted in the U.S.
18 Air Force and served at an F-111 fighter base stateside during
19 the Vietnam War; he was honorably discharged and served 10
20 years in the Illinois Air National Guard in Peoria; and

21 WHEREAS, Although his parents wanted him to be a doctor

1 like many of his relatives, Ray Hanania studied politics under
2 the late Professor Milton Rakove at the University of Illinois
3 at Circle Campus; in his final semester in 1977, he was hired
4 by the Southtown Economist as a reporter, where he began
5 covering Chicago City Hall; in 1985, he was hired by the
6 Chicago Sun-Times; and

7 WHEREAS, Ray Hanania interviewed Richard J. Daley before
8 his death and covered the administrations of Michael A.
9 Bilandic, Jane M. Byrne, Harold Washington, Eugene Sawyer, and
10 Richard M. Daley; he is the recipient of four Peter Lisagor
11 Awards, two Stick-O-Type Awards, and the Sigma Delta Chi
12 National Writing Award in 2009; he was named Best Ethnic
13 American Columnist in America (2006-2007); his columns were
14 distributed by Creators Syndicate; and

15 WHEREAS, Ray Hanania hosted a live radio show on WLS-AM
16 for 10 years; he is a longtime member of the Society of
17 Professional Journalists and the author of several books,
18 including Arabs of Chicagoland; and

19 WHEREAS, As an Arab American, Ray Hanania has dedicated
20 his life to pursuing Middle East peace between Israelis and
21 Palestinians and served as National President of the
22 Palestinian American Congress in 1995, advocating for the
23 Rabin-Arafat peace accords; and

1 WHEREAS, After September 11, 2001, Ray Hanania launched
2 the Israeli Palestinian Comedy Tour with the motto "If we can
3 laugh together, we can live together," being the first
4 Palestinian to perform live comedy with Israelis throughout
5 Israel, the West Bank, and Dublin, and across the U.S.; he
6 continues to serve the community on the Arab American
7 Democratic Club and Arab American Chamber of Commerce; and

8 WHEREAS, Ray Hanania balances his life working as a media
9 consultant for government clients and writes political
10 analysis for the Southwest News Newspaper Group and
11 SuburbanChicagoland.com; he writes on Middle East issues for
12 the Arab News Newspaper distributed in Saudi Arabia, Dubai,
13 France, and Japan and online in Britain and the U.S.; and

14 WHEREAS, Loved and hated like any good columnist because
15 of his political writings, Ray Hanania pursues truth
16 regardless of politics in the U.S. or the Middle East; he is
17 dedicated to peace between Israelis and Palestinians, Jews and
18 Arabs, hosting and speaking about and documenting Arab
19 American heritage; and

20 WHEREAS, Ray Hanania lives in Orland Park with his wife,
21 Alison, and son, Aaron, who are Jewish, and has a daughter,
22 Carolyn, from a previous marriage, and two grandchildren; and

1 WHEREAS, Ray Hanania's greatest enjoyment was to watch
2 Arabs and Jews, Palestinians and Israelis, dancing and
3 laughing together at his son's Bar Mitzvah in 2014, proving
4 that if Arabs and Jews can get along, Democrats and
5 Republicans can get along, too; therefore, be it

6 RESOLVED, BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE
7 HUNDRED SECOND GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, that
8 we recognize the life of Chicago news columnist Ray Hanania;
9 and be it further

10 RESOLVED, That a suitable copy of this resolution be
11 presented to Ray Hanania as a symbol of our respect and esteem.