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LRB102 19030 LAW 27794 r

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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 Aydin O. Gonulsen of Shipman, who passed away on July 6, 2021; and

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WHEREAS, Aydin Gonulsen was born in Izmir, Turkey to Muharrem and Ulviye (Hasyigin) Gonulsen on February 15, 1943; he immigrated to the United States in 1963; he attended Warren Wilson College in Swannanoa, North Carolina, where he was a two-time junior college All-American soccer player and set the school record for goals scored in a season; he then transferred to Pikeville College in Kentucky; he married Suna Uslu on January 15, 2008; and

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WHEREAS, Alongside his brother Yavuz, Aydin Gonulsen was instrumental in starting the YMCA soccer program in Springfield in the 1970s, and their efforts were critical in launching the modern-day soccer community in central Illinois; he became the first athletic director and head soccer coach at Sangamon State University (SSU) in 1976, where he built the soccer program from the ground up; with the assistance of a group of student athletes, he also placed the sod on the first SSU soccer field; he led SSU and later the University of Illinois-Springfield to 400 career victories and three National Association of Intercollegiate Athletics (NAIA)

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1 national championships in 1986, 1988, and 1993; his teams
2 appeared in more than 20 NAIA national tournaments and in two
3 World Collegiate Soccer Championships, including a 2-1 win
4 over former NCAA champion UCLA in 1988; he retired in 2001; and

5 WHEREAS, Aydin Gonulsen took over the men's and women's
6 soccer teams at Blackburn College in 2007; he helped
7 revitalize both programs and won 71 games, with the men's team
8 scoring 48 victories and the women's team achieving 23 wins;
9 he retired in 2013; and

10 WHEREAS, Aydin Gonulsen was named Coach of the Year by the
11 National Association of Intercollegiate Athletics twice; he
12 was inducted into the NAIA Hall of Fame in 2000, the
13 Springfield Sports Hall of Fame in 2002, and the University of
14 Illinois-Springfield Hall of Fame in 2014; he was also a
15 member of the Warren Wilson College Hall of Fame; and

16 WHEREAS, Aydin Gonulsen loved skiing, waterskiing, and
17 traveling to see family in the United States and Turkey; and

18 WHEREAS, Aydin Gonulsen was preceded in death by his
19 parents; his daughter, Katherine Gonulsen; five brothers; and
20 one sister; and

21 WHEREAS, Aydin Gonulsen is survived by his wife; his

1 daughters, Peri (Mitch) Pugh and Amanda Gonulsen, and their
2 mother, Mimi Rutherford Gonulsen; his grandson, Sebastian
3 Aydin Pugh; and his brother, Akin (Ilkay) Gonulsen; therefore,
4 be it

5 RESOLVED, BY THE SENATE OF THE ONE HUNDRED SECOND GENERAL
6 ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, that we mourn the passing of
7 Aydin O. Gonulsen and extend our sincere condolences to his
8 family, friends, and all who knew and loved him; and be it
9 further

10 RESOLVED, That a suitable copy of this resolution be
11 presented to the family of Aydin Gonulsen as an expression of
12 our deepest sympathy.