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LRB102 20929 ECR 29818 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 Dr. Marvin Zonis, who passed away on November 15, 2020 at the age of 85; and

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WHEREAS, Dr. Marvin Zonis was born to Leonard and Clara (Barenberg) Zonis in Boston, Massachusetts on September 18, 1936; and

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WHEREAS, Dr. Marvin Zonis attended Belmont High School, during which time he participated in a student exchange program in Greece; this curiosity about global cultures was inspired through literature, specifically the works of Richard Halliburton; ultimately, he became conversationally fluent in Arabic, Farsi, French, Hebrew, and Italian; and

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WHEREAS, Dr. Marvin Zonis earned a bachelor's degree from Yale University, a master's from the Harvard Business School, and a doctorate from the Massachusetts Institute of Technology; he also completed coursework at the Chicago Psychoanalytic Institute; and

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WHEREAS, Dr. Marvin Zonis lived in Tehran, Iran from 1963 to 1965 as part of the research process for his dissertation on the Iranian political regime; ultimately, he interviewed the

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1 Shah; this project was covered by the Iranian Press TV; and

2 WHEREAS, Dr. Marvin Zonis discovered that he had family in
3 Tehran; he helped these relatives immigrate to the United
4 States where they obtained professional degrees; and

5 WHEREAS, Dr. Marvin Zonis authored books on Middle East
6 politics and the global economy, including Majestic Failure:
7 The Fall of the Shah, among others; and

8 WHEREAS, Dr. Marvin Zonis became Nightline anchor Ted
9 Koppel's go-to expert for help with explaining the Iranian
10 hostage crisis, which began in 1979; during those 444 days, he
11 was a frequent interview guest; and

12 WHEREAS, Dr. Marvin Zonis taught for five decades at the
13 University of Chicago; he worked in the Departments of
14 Political Science and Comparative Human Development and at the
15 Center for Middle Eastern Studies; and

16 WHEREAS, Dr. Marvin Zonis was a professor and mentor to
17 some technological and academic luminaries, including
18 Microsoft CEO Satya Nadella and the executive director of
19 Facing History and Ourselves' Chicago Office Maureen
20 Loughnane; he was also attentive and responsive to minority
21 student concerns; and

1 WHEREAS, Dr. Marvin Zonis possessed brainpower and style;
2 he was once featured in an ad for the clothing company Bigsby
3 and Kruthers; and

4 WHEREAS, At the time of his death, Dr. Marvin Zonis was
5 survived by his wife, Lucy L. Salenger; his three daughters,
6 Nadia Zonis, Leah Harp, and Brix Smith Start; and his two
7 grandchildren; therefore, be it

8 RESOLVED, BY THE SENATE OF THE ONE HUNDRED SECOND GENERAL
9 ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, that we mourn the passing of
10 Dr. Marvin Zonis and extend our sincere condolences to his
11 family, friends, and all who knew and loved him; and be it
12 further

13 RESOLVED, That a suitable copy of this resolution be
14 presented to the family of Dr. Marvin Zonis as an expression of
15 our deepest sympathy.