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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 Russ Slinkard, who passed away on April 25, 2021; and

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WHEREAS, Russ Slinkard was born on the family farm in Jackson, Missouri to Marvin and Mariam Slinkard on May 20, 1937; he earned his Bachelor of Arts from MacMurray College in Jacksonville in 1960; he then graduated from Garrett Theological Seminary in Evanston in 1963 with a Master of Divinity degree; and

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WHEREAS, Russ Slinkard spent approximately 12 years as a pastor in the Methodist Church before entering the business world; he joined the Illinois Bell Telephone Company in 1969 and retired in 1995 when the company was known as Ameritech; and

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WHEREAS, Russ Slinkard became President/CEO of the Joliet Region Chamber of Commerce, a position that he loved and held for 19 years; upon his retirement and to recognize his dedication to the Joliet Community, a plaque renaming the building in his honor was placed in the front of the Russ Slinkard Joliet Region Chamber of Commerce Office Building; and

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1 WHEREAS, Russ Slinkard spent many hours volunteering for
2 various organizations, including the United Way of Will
3 County, Big Brothers/Big Sisters, Will County CED, Junior
4 Achievement, Silver Cross Hospital, Joliet Junior College,
5 Rotary International, University of St. Francis, Easter Seals,
6 Boy Scouts, Rialto Board, YMCA, and First Midwest Bank; and

7 WHEREAS, Russ Slinkard received numerous recognitions,
8 including The Friends of Education Award, the George
9 Sangmeister Medal of Excellence, Joliet Hall of Pride, the Boy
10 Scouts of America Distinguished Citizen Award, the Roger Osman
11 Award for Distinguished Volunteer Service, and the De LaSalle
12 Award from Lewis University; and

13 WHEREAS, Russ Slinkard was an avid fan of the St. Louis
14 Cardinal, a trait he passed to his children; his most
15 important roles in life were that of a husband, father,
16 grandfather, sibling, and son, and family was everything to
17 him; and

18 WHEREAS, Russ Slinkard was preceded in death by his
19 parents and his brother, Donald; and

20 WHEREAS, Russ Slinkard is survived by his wife of 33
21 years, Stella; his children, Bryan (Robin), Lisa (Tim) Sidles,

1 Regina (Greg) Orasco, Shannen (Ubaldo) Rojas, and Shelby
2 (Chad) McCarty; his grandchildren, Matt and Dan Sidles, Morgan
3 Orasco, Maddy Slinkard, Lillian Ballinger, Alexis Libbert,
4 Alaina Klempke, Cyrus Angel, Reyna, Stella, and Aden Guzman,
5 and Nathan Rojas; his brother, Bill (Charlotte); his sisters,
6 Janis (Lewis) Ticer and Robyn (Lynn) Morton; and numerous
7 nieces and nephews; 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 Russ Slinkard 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 Russ Slinkard as an expression of
15 our deepest sympathy.