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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 Richard "Dick" Versace, who passed away on February 25, 2022; and

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WHEREAS, Dick Versace was born in Fort Bragg, North Carolina on April 16, 1940; he earned his bachelor's degree in Education from the University of Wisconsin in 1964; and

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WHEREAS, Dick Versace coached at Forrest High School in Forrest, St. Joseph High School in Kenosha, Wisconsin, and finally at Gordon Tech High School in Chicago; he then entered the collegiate level, coaching at St. Louis University and Michigan State University, where he recruited future NBA star Magic Johnson; from there, he landed his first head coaching assignment at Jackson Community College; he is most notably remembered as head coach at Bradley University from 1978 to 1986, where he led the Bradley Braves to a National Invitation Tournament (NIT) championship in 1982; he was named National College Coach of the Year by the U.S. Basketball Writers' Association for the 1985-86 season; and

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WHEREAS, Dick Versace joined the ranks of the NBA as assistant coach for the Detroit Pistons under Chuck Daley, moving to head coach for the Indiana Pacers, and finally as

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1 assistant coach for the Milwaukee Bucks; between coaching the
2 Pacers and the Bucks, he was known for his sports commentary on
3 both TNT and WMAQ in Chicago; before retiring, he served as
4 president and general manager for the Vancouver/Memphis
5 Grizzlies; and

6 WHEREAS, Dick Versace brought his ebullient personality
7 and relentlessly positive energy to everything he did and
8 everyone he encountered; he understood the value of education
9 and sports as a means of helping lift people; he thrived on
10 helping young people and athletes, as well as colleagues and
11 friends, realize their potential; his generosity of heart and
12 spirit enriched all who were fortunate enough to know him; and

13 WHEREAS, Dick Versace was preceded in death by his
14 parents, Col. Humbert Joseph Versace and Marie Teresa Rios;
15 his brothers, Capt. Humbert Roque Versace and Stephen Versace;
16 and his sister, Trilby Versace; and

17 WHEREAS, Dick Versace is survived by his children, David
18 (Terri) and Julie; his grandchildren, Deklin and Tessa; his
19 brother, Michael Rios; and his partner, Dorothy Culhane;
20 therefore, be it

21 RESOLVED, BY THE SENATE OF THE ONE HUNDRED SECOND GENERAL
22 ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, that we mourn the passing of

1 Richard "Dick" Versace and extend our sincere condolences to
2 his family, friends, and all who knew and loved him; and be it
3 further

4 RESOLVED, That a suitable copy of this resolution be
5 presented to the family of Dick Versace as an expression of our
6 deepest sympathy.