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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 George Frederick Wendt, who passed away on September 11, 2021 at the age of 73; and

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WHEREAS, George Wendt was born on October 3, 1947; and

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WHEREAS, George Wendt was raised in River Forest and attended St. Vincent Ferrer Elementary School and Fenwick High School; and

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WHEREAS, George Wendt completed his bachelor's degree program at the University of Minnesota; he also obtained a master's and doctoral degree from Loyola University Chicago; and

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WHEREAS, Throughout his schooling, George Wendt was a devoted swimmer; he received All-American honors as part of his college swim team; he later participated in the Olympic Trials; and

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WHEREAS, In 1969, George Wendt returned to his high school alma mater to teach English and serve as chair of the department; he also taught English and Communications classes at Benedictine University in Lisle; and

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1 WHEREAS, In the early 1980s, at the behest of his mother,
2 George Wendt assumed an active management role in Chicago
3 Metal Manufacturing, which was founded by his grandfather in
4 1908; this business leadership experience resulted in the
5 creation of a separate company, Chicago Metal Rolled Products
6 (CMRP), and he became the new company's president in 1984; and

7 WHEREAS, George Wendt's capacity for innovation helped
8 CMRP develop into a major industry competitor; during his
9 tenure, he introduced the processes of Japanese "Lean
10 Manufacturing" and large beam rolling to the company;
11 ultimately, CMRP won a contract to produce the iconic tubing
12 that forms the Trellis, which stands above Pritzker Pavilion
13 at Millennium Park; and

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15 WHEREAS, George Wendt's passion for competitive swimming
16 was not diminished by his busy work life or age; he broke
17 multiple national and international records in Masters
18 Athletics; he was an all-star competitor in Chicago's Big
19 Shoulders 5k Swim; he earned 1st place in 1993 and 1995 when he
20 was 45 and 47-years-old respectively; and

21 WHEREAS, George Wendt was inducted into Fenwick High
22 School's Athletic Hall of Fame in 2013; and

1 WHEREAS, George Wendt is survived by his wife of 52 years,
2 Anne; his children, Matthew, Daniel, and Katherine; and his
3 grandchildren, Tyler, Bailey, Emma, Noah, Alexander, Kylie,
4 Abigail, Sophie, and Wyatt; therefore, 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 George Frederick Wendt and extend our sincere condolences to
8 his 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 George Wendt as an expression of our
12 deepest sympathy.