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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 former Illinois State Representative James Richard "Jim" Reilly Jr., who passed away on April 4, 2022; and

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WHEREAS, Rep. Reilly was born in Springfield to James and Alta Reilly on January 31, 1945; he graduated from Springfield High School and received his Bachelor of Science from Illinois College and his Juris Doctor from the University of Chicago, where he was Phi Beta Kappa; he married M. Veronica Lynch in Saugatuck, Michigan in 1991; and

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WHEREAS, Rep. Reilly practiced law with the firm of Foreman, Rammelkamp, Bradney and Hall in Jacksonville and served as the Jacksonville City Attorney; and

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WHEREAS, Rep. Reilly was elected to the Illinois House of Representatives, representing Jacksonville and west central Illinois; he served for three terms over six years from 1977 until 1983 and had numerous accomplishments in the area of child welfare and protection; he chaired the Illinois Education and State Government Committees and the Committee on Appropriations; he was chief sponsor of the Illinois Human Rights Act and Emergency Medical Services Act and championed

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1 reform for the Regional Transportation Authority; and

2 WHEREAS, Rep. Reilly served as the chief executive officer  
3 of the Metropolitan Pier and Exposition Authority (MPEA), the  
4 agency that owns McCormick Place, the nation's largest  
5 convention center, and Navy Pier, Illinois' top tourist and  
6 leisure destination; he most recently served as a trustee of  
7 the Metropolitan Pier and Exposition Authority and as a life  
8 trustee of Navy Pier's Board of Directors; he oversaw the  
9 development and complete renovation of Navy Pier and the  
10 expansion of McCormick Place; under his leadership as trustee  
11 for the MPEA, historic measures were enacted to ensure the  
12 economic vitality of McCormick Place and Navy Pier; and

13 WHEREAS, Rep. Reilly's professional experiences included  
14 serving as chairman of the Regional Transportation Authority,  
15 chief executive officer of the Chicago Convention and Tourism  
16 Bureau, and chairman of the board of the Illinois Capital  
17 Development Board; and

18 WHEREAS, Rep. Reilly supported numerous organizations,  
19 including Navy Pier, the Chicago Shakespeare Theater, Mercy  
20 Hospital, the Illinois Institute of Technology, Choose  
21 Chicago, the Jacksonville Area Association of Citizens with  
22 Intellectual Disability, the Jacksonville Theater Guild,  
23 Illinois College, the Edgar Fellows Program, and Chicago's

1 culture and arts community; and

2 WHEREAS, Rep. Reilly's favorite pastimes included trains,  
3 both real and models, and he showcased them for his many nieces  
4 and nephews during the holiday gatherings; he traveled  
5 extensively, both overseas and throughout the United States;  
6 his visits to Europe were frequent, and he enjoyed calling the  
7 British Island of Tortola a second home; he particularly  
8 appreciated Vienna, Taiwan, Venice, Kenya, and Paris; and

9 WHEREAS, Rep. Reilly had a passion for the arts; his  
10 support of the Lyric Opera of Chicago, the Chicago Symphony  
11 Orchestra, and the Vienna Philharmonic Orchestra reflected  
12 this and were surpassed only by his commitment and dedication  
13 to the Chicago Shakespeare Theater; he was an avid fan of the  
14 Chicago Bears and Chicago Bulls, although his years spent in  
15 downstate Illinois led to the St. Louis Cardinals becoming his  
16 favorite baseball team; and

17 WHEREAS, Rep. Reilly was preceded in death by his parents;  
18 and

19 WHEREAS, Rep. Reilly is survived by his wife of 30 years,  
20 Veronica; an aunt; many cherished cousins, brothers, and  
21 sisters-in-law; and numerous nieces, nephews, and their  
22 spouses; therefore, be it

1           RESOLVED, BY THE SENATE OF THE ONE HUNDRED SECOND GENERAL  
2 ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, that we mourn the passing of  
3 former Illinois State Representative James Richard "Jim"  
4 Reilly Jr. and extend our sincere condolences to his family,  
5 friends, and all who knew and loved him; and be it further

6           RESOLVED, That a suitable copy of this resolution be  
7 presented to the family of Rep. Reilly as an expression of our  
8 deepest sympathy.