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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 John Hughes, who passed away on September 5, 2022; and

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WHEREAS, John Hughes was born to Ernest W. Hughes Jr. and Sletta Estella Hughes in Princeton, New Jersey on June 21, 1951; he graduated as a Paul Robeson Scholar from Rutgers University in New Brunswick, New Jersey in 1974; and

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WHEREAS, John Hughes held a long career in public broadcasting; he began at the New Jersey Public Broadcasting Authority after college before leaving to hold executive positions at Georgia Public Broadcasting and WABE in Atlanta, Georgia; he then became a general manager for Clark Atlanta University's radio station, WCLK; he later relocated to become a program executive at Howard University's WHUT public television station in Washington, D.C.; he also served as general manager of WPFW, the Pacifica station in Washington, D.C.; and

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WHEREAS, Most recently, John Hughes served as general manager of radio station KPVO, located on the campus of Prairie View A&M University, in Prairie View, Texas, starting in 2016; during his tenure, he rebranded KPVO to The Art of

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1 Soul to bridge gaps between neo-soul, jazz, world music, and
2 Latin music; he also helped KPVU, traditionally a jazz
3 station, introduce modern R&B and hip-hop programming to its
4 schedule; and

5 WHEREAS, John Hughes was a lifelong lover of music, with
6 some of his favorite artists including Héctor Lavoe, Willie
7 Colón, Gil Scott-Heron, Celia Cruz, Donny Hathaway, Grover
8 Washington Jr., Nina Simone, George Benson, Stevie Wonder,
9 Gregory Porter, and Paul Robeson; he loved international
10 travel, food, sports, politics, Cuban art, and culture; he
11 maintained decades-long friendships with his Groove Phi Groove
12 brothers and his Atlanta, Washington, D.C., and New Jersey
13 crews; and

14 WHEREAS, John Hughes was known for his stunning wit, his
15 soaring intelligence, his captivating storytelling, his
16 infinite love for friends and family, his mischievous sense of
17 adventure, and his boundless charm; he will be remembered for
18 advocating for greater diversity in programming, mentoring
19 students of color at historically Black colleges and
20 universities, and helping to create a broadcast engineering
21 program at Prairie View A&M University to increase the number
22 of Black engineers in the industry; and

23 WHEREAS, John Hughes was preceded in death by his parents

1 and his brother, Thomas; and

2 WHEREAS, John Hughes is survived by his siblings, Charles
3 Hughes, Douglas Hughes, Nancy Holley Hughes, Ella Noyland
4 Hughes, Ernia P. Hughes, and Sletta Hughes Arobo; his
5 godmother; and an extended family of cousins, nieces, nephews,
6 and godchildren; therefore, be it

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

11 RESOLVED, That a suitable copy of this resolution be
12 presented to the family of John Hughes as an expression of our
13 deepest sympathy.