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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 Jerome Robert "Jerry" Vainisi of Oak Park, who passed away on October 4, 2021 at the age of 80; and

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WHEREAS, Jerry Vainisi was born on October 7, 1941 to Anthony and Marie (Delisi) Vainisi, Italian immigrants who settled in Chicago and ran a deli shop near Wrigley Field that was frequented by members of the Chicago Bears football team living nearby; and

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WHEREAS, Jerry Vainisi grew up in a North Side Chicago apartment, the youngest of four children, and his parents taught their children the values of education, hard work, and accountability, as well as a deep commitment to family; and

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WHEREAS, Jerry Vainisi worked as a ball boy for the Green Bay Packers while in high school and while his older brother Jack worked as a scout and business manager for the team; he then went to Georgetown University; after graduation, he became a radio sports broadcaster in Monmouth and later earned a degree from the Chicago-Kent College of Law; and

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WHEREAS, After working as an accountant at Arthur Andersen, Jerry Vainisi began a notable career with the

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1 Chicago Bears in 1972, where he served in multiple roles,
2 including as controller, treasurer, counsel, and ultimately
3 advancing to general manager in 1983; and

4 WHEREAS, Jerry Vainisi's tenure with the Chicago Bears led
5 to an overall record of 47-17, making them one of the greatest
6 football teams in NFL history and Super Bowl XX Champions in
7 1986; and

8 WHEREAS, Jerry Vainisi later served as vice president for
9 player personnel for the Detroit Lions from 1987 to 1990, as
10 co-founder and head of football operations for the World
11 League of American Football (NFL Europe) from 1990 to 1995, as
12 head of the sports and entertainment law group for Hinshaw &
13 Culbertson, and as chairman and chief executive office of
14 Forest Park Bank in 1999; and

15 WHEREAS, Jerry Vainisi was inducted into the Chicagoland
16 Sports Hall of Fame in 2010 and the Italian American Sports
17 Hall of Fame; and

18 WHEREAS, Jerry Vainisi is remembered for his commitment to
19 family, hard work, and generosity; and

20 WHEREAS, The Vainisi family enjoyed summer weekends and
21 numerous family occasions and holidays at what was known as

1 Papa's Lake House in Lake Geneva, Wisconsin; and

2 WHEREAS, Jerry Vainisi was preceded in death by his
3 parents, Anthony and Marie Vainisi; his brother, Jack
4 (Jacqueline) Vainisi; his sister, Patricia (Jim) Oakes; his
5 grandson, Sam; and his in-laws, Arthur Lane, Pearl Lane, John
6 Nash, Jim Oakes, and Jacqueline Vainisi; and

7 WHEREAS, Jerry Vainisi is survived by his wife, Doris
8 (Lane); his brother, Samuel (Gretchen Schmidt D.V.M.) Vainisi
9 D.V.M.; his five children, Mary (Tom) Rogers, Jerry (Tracey),
10 Jack, Mark (Jen), and Melissa Love; and his 14 grandchildren,
11 Tony, Dori (Matt) Boyce, Ben Rogers, Maria, Kate (Scott)
12 Eggleston, Jack, Jerome, Joe, Grace, Nick, Will, Lane Love,
13 and Michael Love; therefore, be it

14 RESOLVED, BY THE SENATE OF THE ONE HUNDRED SECOND GENERAL
15 ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, that we mourn the passing of
16 Jerome Robert "Jerry" Vainisi and extend our sincere
17 condolences to his family, friends, and all who knew and loved
18 him; and be it further

19 RESOLVED, That a suitable copy of this resolution be
20 presented to the family of Jerry Vainisi as an expression of
21 our deepest sympathy.