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HOUSE RESOLUTION

2           WHEREAS, A native of Illinois, Brent Hassert was born on  
3           October 29, 1952 in Joliet, where he enjoyed his childhood;  
4           and

5           WHEREAS, Brent Hassert studied horticulture at America's  
6           first community college, Joliet Junior College, in preparation  
7           for the first half of his career as a landscape contractor;  
8           along with his brother, Earl, he was the co-owner of Hassert  
9           Landscaping; and

10           WHEREAS, The population boom of the 1970s and 1980s in  
11           Brent Hassert's home, Will County, brought many community  
12           challenges; as a leader among his neighbors, he stood for  
13           election to the Will County Board in 1986, becoming a county  
14           commissioner and executive pro tem; and

15           WHEREAS, As a result of the population boom, affirmed by  
16           the United States Census of 1990, a new Illinois House  
17           district, the 83rd Representative District, was created to  
18           center on the fast-growing communities of Romeoville,  
19           Plainfield, and Lockport; increasingly aware of the challenges  
20           facing this region as part of the overall governance of the  
21           State of Illinois, Brent Hassert put his name forward as a  
22           State lawmaker; and

1           WHEREAS, In March 1992, with 4,877 votes, Brent Hassert  
2 was chosen by his Republican neighbors as their party's  
3 candidate for the Illinois House of Representatives from the  
4 new 83rd Representative District; in November of that year, he  
5 was elected, with 24,804 votes, to be the first-ever state  
6 representative from the newly-created district, with a 59.8%  
7 landslide majority; and

8           WHEREAS, With his experience as a county leader, Brent  
9 Hassert was quickly chosen to be the Republican vice  
10 spokesperson on the House Committee on Counties & Townships;  
11 and

12           WHEREAS, When he and his fellow Republicans achieved a  
13 House majority in the 89th Illinois General Assembly, Brent  
14 Hassert was chosen as vice chairman of the Committee on  
15 Environment & Energy, building a bipartisan coalition that led  
16 to consensus on restructuring the electricity industry of the  
17 State of Illinois; and

18           WHEREAS, Brent Hassert was continually elected and  
19 re-elected by his neighbors to the Illinois House of  
20 Representatives for a total of 16 years in office, from 1992  
21 until 2008; and

1           WHEREAS, As gaming became a significant industry in  
2 Joliet, Brent Hassert became the minority spokesperson of the  
3 House Committee on Gaming, where he helped shape the laws that  
4 governed the fast-growing field of Illinois riverboat casinos;  
5 a key law enacted during this period in June 1999 helped create  
6 jobs by ending the requirement that these Joliet casinos  
7 physically cruise up and down the Des Plaines River; and

8           WHEREAS, As the governance of the State of Illinois became  
9 more complex and complicated, Brent Hassert became aware that  
10 more and more of our State laws were being implemented through  
11 complicated new rules and regulations promulgated by State  
12 administrative agencies; serving as co-chairman of the  
13 bipartisan Joint Committee on Administrative Rules (JCAR), he  
14 helped maintain Illinois General Assembly oversight on these  
15 rules and the processes used to draft and enforce them; and

16           WHEREAS, During this time, Brent Hassert steadily rose in  
17 the estimation of his Illinois House colleagues, especially  
18 his Republican colleagues, achieving for six years, 2003 to  
19 2009, the rank of Deputy House Minority Leader; and

20           WHEREAS, In the year 2008, Illinois Democrats helped to  
21 nominate a senator from Illinois, Barack Obama, to be  
22 President of the United States; the Obama campaign created  
23 great enthusiasm among the members of his party in Illinois,

1 and in January 2009, Brent Hassert returned to private life,  
2 leaving a legacy of dedication and service to his district;  
3 and

4 WHEREAS, As a community leader in Plainfield and as an  
5 acknowledged expert in Illinois law and governance, Brent  
6 Hassert now entered a new phase of his career as the owner and  
7 operator of Brent Hassert Consulting, advocating on behalf of  
8 local governments; and

9 WHEREAS, Throughout these career changes, Brent Hassert  
10 relied upon his wife, Lee Ann Goodson, his brother, Earl, his  
11 son, Justin Hassert, his son, Josh Hassert, their son, Matthew  
12 Goodson, their daughter, Alexandra Goodson Ruikis, and their  
13 daughters-in-law and son-in-law; and

14 WHEREAS, A growing headcount of seven grandchildren, Kyle  
15 Hassert, Jena Hassert, Colton Hassert, Carson Hassert, Aria  
16 Phoenix, Avery Ruikis, and Bailey Ruikis, brought happiness to  
17 Brent Hassert; and

18 WHEREAS, On August 29, 2024, Brent Hassert passed away,  
19 leaving behind a body of Illinois laws, his saddened friends  
20 and neighbors, and his bereaved family; therefore, be it

21 RESOLVED, BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE

1 HUNDRED THIRD GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, that  
2 we mourn the loss of Representative and Deputy Republican  
3 Leader Brent Hassert of Illinois; and be it further

4       RESOLVED, That a suitable copy of this resolution be  
5 presented to Brent Hassert's wife, Lee Ann Goodson, as a  
6 symbol of our deepest sympathies.