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SENATE RESOLUTION

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WHEREAS, The members of the Illinois Senate are saddened to learn of the deaths of Joseph D. "Joe" and Donna K. Bates, who passed away on May 1, 2023; and

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WHEREAS, Joe Bates was born in Princeton, Indiana on July 29, 1949; he graduated from Princeton High School in 1967; he served in the U.S. Marine Corps during the Vietnam War from 1969 to 1971, and he received the rank of corporal; after being discharged from the military, he pursued earning his bachelor's degree in accounting from Indiana University in Bloomington, Indiana; and

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WHEREAS, Joe Bates worked for Bankers Life Casualty Insurance Company in Chicago; during his career in the insurance field, he held the positions of certified public accountant (CPA), controller, and vice president; and

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WHEREAS, Donna Bates was born in Chicago on May 18, 1951; she graduated from Carl Schurz High School in 1969; she earned her associate's degree in applied science from Wilbur Wright College in 1971; and

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WHEREAS, Donna Bates began her career with Bankers Life Casualty Insurance Company in Chicago; she served as a

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1 teacher's assistant for North Elementary School in Crystal
2 Lake for over 20 years; in 1969, she began her singing career
3 with the Melodeers chorus of Sweet Adelines International, and
4 the group won multiple international competitions; she joined
5 the Melo-Edge quartet when it was formed in 1978, with the
6 quartet becoming international champions in 1983 and her being
7 named a Queen of Harmony; she performed with Melo-Edge on
8 three international cruises, the Phil Donahue Show, and a Toni
9 Tennille special; she was also a master director and an
10 instructor for the Sweet Adeline International organization;
11 and

12 WHEREAS, Joe and Donna Bates met while working at Bankers
13 Life Casualty Insurance Company and married in Chicago on
14 August 8, 1981; they had two daughters, Sarah and Abbie; they
15 resided in both Chicago and Princeton, Indiana; and

16 WHEREAS, Joe and Donna Bates loved spending time with
17 family and frequently traveled to visit family members across
18 the Midwest; they took pride in each accomplishment and
19 milestone that their daughters achieved; individually, he
20 enjoyed working on projects in the garage, while she enjoyed
21 tending to her garden; they both loved animals and enjoyed
22 taking their dogs on nightly walks together; and

23 WHEREAS, Joe and Donna Bates were preceded in death by

1 Joe's parents, John and Wanda (Gordon) Bates; his sister,
2 Bonnie (Jerry) Lance; his sister-in-law, Martha "Billie"
3 Bates; his brother-in-law, Ron Caringer; Donna's parents,
4 Theodore and Kathryn (Sprincz) Pladis; her aunts and uncles,
5 Mae Sprincz, William Sprincz, Diane Sprincz, Steve Sprincz,
6 Emma Sprincz, Julia Rediger, and Arthur Rediger; and her
7 cousin, Janis Rumbley; and

8 WHEREAS, Joe and Donna Bates are survived by their
9 daughters, Sarah M. (fiancé, Matthew Raines) Bates and Abbie
10 K. (Morgan) Baer; Joe's sisters, Patricia (Tim) O'Rourke,
11 Priscilla Caringer, Barbara (Dale) Krieg, Pamela Bates; his
12 brothers, Robert "Bud" Bates, Jerry Bates, Jeff (Donna) Bates,
13 Tim (Lana) Bates, Tom (Karen) Bates, Edward (Vikki) Bates;
14 Donna's sister, Maureen Brzinski; and several nieces and
15 nephews; therefore, be it

16 RESOLVED, BY THE SENATE OF THE ONE HUNDRED THIRD GENERAL
17 ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, that we mourn the passing of
18 Joseph D. "Joe" and Donna K. Bates and extend our sincere
19 condolences to their family, friends, and all who knew and
20 loved them; and be it further

21 RESOLVED, That a suitable copy of this resolution be
22 presented to the family of Joe and Donna Bates as an expression
23 of our deepest sympathy.