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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 Jeffrey George Spear of Quincy, who passed away on December 8, 2023; and

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WHEREAS, Jeffrey Spear was born to George Harry and Charlotte Hansen Spear in Quincy on December 16, 1955; he graduated as valedictorian from Quincy High School in 1974, where he was on the basketball team and was a co-founder of the athletic supporters pep group; he received his bachelor's degree in biology and graduated magna cum laude from Kenyon College in 1978, where he was a member of the Delta Kappa Epsilon fraternity; he married Theresa Lynn (Powers) Spear in Quincy on June 9, 1978, and he was valedictorian of his graduating class at the Worsham College of Mortuary Science in 1979; and

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WHEREAS, Jeffrey Spear, along with his wife, owned and operated Hansen-Spear Funeral Home; and

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WHEREAS, Jeffrey Spear was active in a number of community organizations, where many of his endeavors revolved around raising money for youth-based organizations; since 1987, he provided children's sermons at Luther Memorial and Hope Lutheran Churches; and

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1 WHEREAS, Jeffrey Spear was elected to the Quincy High
2 School Sports Hall of Fame in 1998 and the Illinois Basketball
3 Coaches Association Hall of Fame in 2000; and

4 WHEREAS, Jeffrey Spear's interests evolved as he grew
5 older; post college, he ran three Chicago Marathons in under
6 three and a half hours; always an avid Chicago Cubs fan who
7 loved discussing baseball strategy and statistics with other
8 fans, he later began supporting the Bears, the Bulls, and the
9 Blackhawks; most recently, he enjoyed reading, cutting down
10 trees and splitting firewood, working in the yard, going to
11 rock and roll concerts, and sipping some fine California
12 Chardonnay; he was an extreme recycler and had a deep love of
13 nature; he cherished time spent with his family and was
14 especially proud of their individual accomplishments; and

15 WHEREAS, Jeffrey Spear was preceded in death by his
16 parents and his pets and grandpets, Gussie, Cassie, Sonoma
17 Red, Aspen, Artemis, and a host of cats; and

18 WHEREAS, Jeffrey Spear is survived by his wife of 45
19 years, Theresa; his sons, William (Dr. Kristin) Spear,
20 Nicholas (Sarah) Spear, and Kristjan (Lilian) Makke; his
21 grandsons, Zeus Spear, Theo Spear, Erik Makke, Sebastian
22 Makke, and Oskar Makke; his brothers, John (Lisa) Spear and

1 Dr. Robert (Jan) Spear; his father-in-law and mother-in-law,
2 Dr. Francis and Jean Powers; his brothers-in-law, Tom (Tina)
3 Powers and Tim (Laura) Powers; his sisters-in-laws, Peggy
4 Phillips, Faye (Mike) Ericson, and Joanne (Jeff) Bergman; his
5 numerous nieces and nephews; and his Irish Setter, Cutrer;
6 therefore, be it

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

12 RESOLVED, That a suitable copy of this resolution be
13 presented to the family of Jeffrey Spear as an expression of
14 our deepest sympathy.