



SR0759

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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 Michael "Mike" Assalley of Taylorville, who passed away on January 11, 2024; and

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WHEREAS, Mike Assalley was born in Bloomington to William "Bill" and Carolyn (Koehler) Assalley on November 12, 1985; he attended school in Mahomet before his family moved to Effingham; he graduated from Effingham High School in 2004, where he was voted homecoming king and was co-captain of the football team; he was also voted as most talkative by his peers; he married Lauren E. Sanders in Effingham on August 4, 2012; and

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WHEREAS, Mike Assalley spent his post high school years working as a pharmacy technician for Walgreens before graduating with honors from mortuary school at Carl Sandburg College in 2014; he spent his early career working for Butler Funeral Homes in Springfield as a school intern, licensed funeral director apprentice, and licensed funeral director; he then acquired four funeral homes from Perfetti Funeral Homes, Inc. in May of 2017; he acquired Young Funeral Home in July of 2021; and

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WHEREAS, Mike Assalley served as president of the

1 executive board of directors for the Greater Taylorville  
2 Chamber of Commerce; he was a committee member for the  
3 Sangchris & Taylorville Chapters of Ducks Unlimited and served  
4 on numerous other community agency boards, including the board  
5 of directors for DowntownTaylorville.org; he was also past  
6 president of the Christian County United Way; he provided and  
7 awarded many scholarships to local high school students; and

8 WHEREAS, Mike Assalley had a multitude of interests and  
9 skill sets, including music, playing multiple instruments, and  
10 writing and recording songs; he enjoyed hunting, especially  
11 ducks and waterfowl, and outdoorsmanship; he also enjoyed  
12 traveling, history, politics, and sports, especially following  
13 the Chicago Cubs, Bears, and Notre Dame football; he collected  
14 family heirlooms such as his ancestral Koehler duck decoys; he  
15 was a parishioner of St. Mary's Church in Taylorville and a 4th  
16 Degree member of the Knights of Columbus Council 2120; and

17 WHEREAS, Mike Assalley hardly knew a stranger and touched  
18 many lives in his short time on earth with generosity,  
19 compassion, and authenticity; his quick wit and gifted mind  
20 brought much laughter and joy to all who loved him; and

21 WHEREAS, Mike Assalley was preceded in death by his  
22 paternal grandfather, Frank E. Assalley; his maternal  
23 grandfather, Kent L. Koehler; his paternal uncle, Robert H.

1 Assalley; and a best friend, Zachary Fish; and

2 WHEREAS, Mike Assalley is survived by his wife, Lauren;  
3 his children, Ila Belle Assalley, Vincent Francis Kent  
4 Assalley, and John William Assalley; his parents, Bill and  
5 Carolyn Assalley; his mother-in-law, Debbie Sanders; his  
6 father-in-law, Derek Sanders; his sisters, Lauren (Wesley)  
7 Layton and Sydney Assalley (Dillon Williams); his  
8 sister-in-law, Nikki (Richard) Vahling; his brother-in-law,  
9 Logan Sanders (Catherine Zumwalt and her sons, Noah and  
10 Nicholas); his niece and goddaughter, Aubrey Vahling; his  
11 grandmothers, Jacquelyn Assalley and Linda Koehler; and many  
12 aunts, uncles, cousins, and friends; therefore, be it

13 RESOLVED, BY THE SENATE OF THE ONE HUNDRED THIRD GENERAL  
14 ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, that we mourn the passing of  
15 Michael "Mike" Assalley and extend our sincere condolences to  
16 his family, friends, and all who knew and loved him; and be it  
17 further

18 RESOLVED, That a suitable copy of this resolution be  
19 presented to the family of Mike Assalley as an expression of  
20 our deepest sympathy.