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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 David Michael Milliner, who passed away on January 1, 2024; and

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WHEREAS, David Milliner was born to Rose Marie Von Liggett in Chicago on February 6, 1957; after his mother's passing, he was raised by his aunts, Christina Von Liggett and Aileen Von Liggett, and his grandmother, Maida Von Liggett; as a teenager, he worked as a copyboy and photo filer for the Chicago Defender; he graduated from Kenwood High School in 1975; he received his Bachelor of Arts in Magazine Journalism from Drake University in 1979, where he became a member of Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity, Inc. in 1977; he married Jondelle Jenkins, D.P.M. in 1989; and

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WHEREAS, David Milliner founded and was CEO of DMMIWorld Communications for 35 years; his career involved marketing, including a memorable stint with Prince for two of the musician's world tours, and maintaining a close relationship with the Chicago Defender (the Defender); in the early 2000s, he and a group of investors acquired the Defender along with other publications, and he served as editor and publisher of the newspaper from January 2003 to March 2004; and

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1 WHEREAS, David Milliner was instrumental in the
2 revitalization of the Bud Billiken Parade in Chicago, bringing
3 television camera crews and then-rising-star Oprah Winfrey to
4 the parade, which put the national spotlight back on the
5 event; and

6 WHEREAS, David Milliner was an active member of Corpus
7 Christi Catholic Church until its closing in 2021; he remained
8 a passionate and tireless member of Alpha Phi Alpha
9 Fraternity, Inc., and he was an active member of the Theta Mu
10 Lambda Charitable Foundation; he was a staple of the
11 Defender's Men and Women of Excellence events; and

12 WHEREAS, David Milliner was a strong proponent of
13 podiatric medicine throughout his life; a proud Chicagoan and
14 Southsider, he was a fan of both the Chicago White Sox and the
15 Chicago Cubs; he enjoyed partaking in long chats with friends,
16 watching and attending sports games, and viewing and listening
17 to an assortment of films, shows, and music; and

18 WHEREAS, David Milliner was a proud husband and father who
19 was known for his uncanny ability to understand anyone he met;
20 he will be remembered as a beacon of determination,
21 selflessness, and brotherhood; and

22 WHEREAS, David Milliner is survived by his wife of 34

1 years, Dr. Jondelle Jenkins; his daughter, Francesca Milliner;
2 his son-in-law, Jayneal Jimenez; five siblings; two aunts; and
3 many family and friends; therefore, be it

4 RESOLVED, BY THE SENATE OF THE ONE HUNDRED THIRD GENERAL
5 ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, that we mourn the passing of
6 David Michael Milliner and extend our sincere condolences to
7 his family, friends, and all who knew and loved him; and be it
8 further

9 RESOLVED, That a suitable copy of this resolution be
10 presented to the family of David Milliner as an expression of
11 our deepest sympathy.