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## SENATE RESOLUTION

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WHEREAS, The members of the Senate of the State of Illinois were saddened to learn of the death of Edward W. McCaskey of Des Plaines, Chairman Emeritus of the Chicago Bears Football Club Board of Directors, on Tuesday, April 8, 2003; and

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WHEREAS, Mr. McCaskey was born on April 27, 1919 in Philadelphia to the late Richard and Catheryn McCaskey; he attended the University of Pennsylvania; he married Virginia Halas on February 2, 1943; and

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WHEREAS, Mr. McCaskey valiantly served his country during World War II in the United States Army 80th Infantry in France; he entered the war as a private and was honorably discharged with the rank of captain; he earned a Bronze Star and Combat Infantry Badge for his performance in combat; and

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WHEREAS, Mr. and Mrs. McCaskey moved to the Chicago area in 1949 where Mr. McCaskey became a top salesman for the E.F. MacDonald Corporation; in 1967, he became a vice president with the Chicago Bears football organization and in 1983, he became the Chairman of the Board; in February of 1999, he became Chairman Emeritus of the Board; he was known as the conscience of the NFL; and

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WHEREAS, Prior to becoming vice president, Mr. McCaskey became a very good friend of Brian Piccolo, a Bears running back; Mr. Piccolo tragically died of cancer in 1970 and Mr. McCaskey wrote the famous speech for Gale Sayers that was immortalized in the TV movie "Brian's Song"; he was an instrumental part of the Brian Piccolo Cancer Research Fund and the Piccolo Golf Committee, both of which have donated millions over the years to the Sloan-Kettering Cancer Center in New York; he was also a support to the family of Walter Payton during Mr. Payton's battle with liver disease; and

1           WHEREAS, Mr. McCaskey and his wife believed very firmly  
2 in the support of charitable causes and were involved with  
3 the Sisters of the Congregation of the Holy Family of  
4 Nazareth; Mr. McCaskey led the development of the Bears Care  
5 program in which the Bears team partnered with the Robert R.  
6 McCormick Tribune Foundation to support programs designed to  
7 positively impact people in the areas of education, youth and  
8 families, athletics, entrepreneurship, and health with a  
9 particular emphasis on programs aimed at disadvantaged youth;  
10 the fund also considers programs devoted to physically  
11 challenged individuals and programs that promote healthy,  
12 drug-free lifestyles; and

13           WHEREAS, Mr. McCaskey enjoyed singing; at one time he  
14 aspired to be a professional singer, and he continued making  
15 CDs past his 80th birthday; he was an avid horse racing fan;  
16 he is remembered as a mentor, a good-hearted man, a  
17 storyteller, an upbeat person, and a family man; and

18           WHEREAS, The passing of Edward W. McCaskey has been  
19 deeply felt by many, especially his wife, Virginia; his  
20 children, Michael (Nancy), Tim (Dawn), Ellen (Barney)  
21 Tonquest, Patrick (Gretchen), Mary, Edward Jr. (Kathy), Anne  
22 (Mike) Catron, George (Barbara), Richard, Brian (Barbara),  
23 and Joseph McCaskey; his many grandchildren and  
24 great-grandchildren; and his sister and brother, Kay Adelman  
25 and James (Maggie) McCaskey; his siblings Thomas (Betty),  
26 Julie Wolff, and Richard McCaskey, preceded him in death;  
27 therefore, be it

28           RESOLVED, BY THE SENATE OF THE NINETY-THIRD GENERAL  
29 ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, that together with his  
30 friends, family, and all the fans and members of the Chicago  
31 Bears Football Club, we mourn the passing of Edward W.  
32 McCaskey, and we extend to his friends and family our deepest  
33 sympathy; and be it further

1           RESOLVED, That a suitable copy of this resolution be  
2   presented to the family of Edward W. McCaskey as an  
3   expression of our sincere condolences during their time of  
4   loss.