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SENATE RESOLUTION

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WHEREAS, Patrick William O'Brien was a gregarious Irish-American who made people laugh by telling stories and finding the humor in everyday life; and

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WHEREAS, Mr. O'Brien, a lifelong Evanston resident, passed away on August 11, 2006; and

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WHEREAS, Mr. O'Brien grew up the middle of three brothers; he attended St. Athanasius School and Evanston Township High School; in 1947, he received a bachelor's degree in mechanical engineering from Northwestern University; and

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WHEREAS, While Mr. O'Brien contemplated a career in academia, a college professor encouraged him to consider law; by 1950, he had a law degree from Northwestern University; and

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WHEREAS, In 1954, he was at a party when he noticed a stunning blond named Deborah Bissell; Mr. O'Brien was working up the courage to speak to her when he lit his pipe and the match flew, lighting Bissell's sundress on fire; he apologized and offered to take her to dinner; they married in 1955 and had seven children; and

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WHEREAS, After briefly working at a private law firm, Mr. O'Brien joined the Air Force during the Korean War, worked in the judge advocate general's department, and became a captain; and

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WHEREAS, In 1953, he joined Mayer, Meyer, Austrian & Platt; as a trial lawyer for more than 50 years with the Chicago law firm, Mr. O'Brien delivered serious performances in the courtroom that demonstrated his vast knowledge of and passion for the law; Pat became a mentor to younger attorneys and was generous in sharing his experiences; and

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1 WHEREAS, Mr. O'Brien shared his struggles with alcoholism;
2 he authored an article about his experiences for the Chicago
3 Bar Association and served as president of the State Lawyers'
4 Assistance Program, which helps lawyers deal with substance
5 abuse issues; and

6 WHEREAS, The passing of Pat O'Brien will be deeply felt by
7 all who knew and loved him; he was the beloved husband of
8 Deborah O'Brien, nee Bissell; the loving father of Kathy (Tom)
9 Caplice, Mariellen (Mike) Hendricks, Patrick O'Brien, Jim
10 (Karen) O'Brien, Patti (T.J.) Sheahan, the late Eileen and
11 Michael O'Brien; the proud grandfather of Michael, Brian,
12 Eddie, Molly, Nell, Patrick, Carlin, Mac, Shaun, Eileen, Erin
13 and Margaret; the dear brother of the late Jim (Fran) O'Brien
14 and Paul (Ann) O'Brien; and the uncle of many; therefore, be it

15 RESOLVED, BY THE SENATE OF THE NINETY-FOURTH GENERAL
16 ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, that we mourn the passing of
17 Patrick William O'Brien, and we extend our sincere condolences
18 to his family, his friends, and all who knew and loved him; and
19 be it further

20 RESOLVED, That a suitable copy of this resolution be
21 presented to his family as an expression of our deepest
22 sympathy.