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HOUSE RESOLUTION

2 WHEREAS, The members of the Illinois House of
3 Representatives are saddened to learn of the death of Roger
4 Ebert, film critic for the Chicago Sun-Times, who passed away
5 on April 4, 2013; and

6 WHEREAS, Roger Ebert joined the Sun-Times in 1966 and
7 became the paper's movie reviewer the following year in 1967;
8 his reviews were eventually syndicated to several hundred other
9 newspapers nationwide; and

10 WHEREAS, Roger Ebert received a Pulitzer Prize in 1975 for
11 distinguished criticism-the first, and one of only 3, given to
12 a film reviewer since the category was created in 1970; in
13 2005, he became the first critic to have a star on the
14 Hollywood Walk of Fame; and

15 WHEREAS, Roger Ebert's television career began in 1975,
16 first in the Chicago area and then nationwide on PBS, when he
17 and Gene Siskel co-hosted the PBS show "Sneak Previews";
18 throughout the years, he would host various popular movie
19 review shows; and

20 WHEREAS, Roger Ebert authored over 20 books covering the
21 film industry and branched out into screenplays; in 1969 he was

1 the co-writer of the movie "Beyond the Valley of the Dolls", a
2 film that has since achieved cult status; and

3 WHEREAS, Roger Ebert founded the annual Ebertfest Film
4 Festival, which holds its 15th incarnation April 17-21, 2013,
5 at the Virginia Theatre in Champaign; and

6 WHEREAS, Roger Ebert was a renowned author, journalist,
7 film historian, film critic, and screenwriter who touched the
8 lives of many; and

9 WHEREAS, Roger Ebert was born in Urbana on June 18, 1942,
10 to Annabel and Walter H. Ebert; he attended Urbana High School
11 and the University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign, graduating in
12 1964; he spent a year at the University of Cape Town in South
13 Africa before attending the University of Chicago; he married
14 Charlie "Chaz" Hammel Smith in 1992; and

15 WHEREAS, Roger Ebert is survived by his wife; his
16 stepchildren, Sonia and Jay; and his grandchildren, Raven,
17 Emil, Mark, and Joseph; therefore, be it

18 RESOLVED, BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE
19 NINETY-EIGHTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, that
20 we mourn the passing of Roger Ebert, and extend our sincere
21 condolences to his family, friends, and all who knew and loved

1 him; and be it further

2 RESOLVED, That a suitable copy of this resolution be
3 presented to the family of Roger Ebert as an expression of our
4 deepest sympathy.