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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 became the paper's movie reviewer in
7 1967; his reviews were eventually syndicated to several hundred
8 newspapers nationwide; and

9 WHEREAS, Roger Ebert received a Pulitzer Prize in 1975 for
10 distinguished criticism; in 2005, he became the first critic to
11 have a star on the Hollywood Walk of Fame; and

12 WHEREAS, Roger Ebert's television career began in 1975,
13 first in the Chicago area and then nationwide on PBS, when he
14 and Gene Siskel co-hosted the PBS show "Opening Soon at a
15 Theater Near You"; it evolved into "Sneak Previews" when the
16 show went into syndication; the show would go through different
17 titles as it moved through the years; and

18 WHEREAS, Roger Ebert authored more than 15 books covering
19 the film industry and branched out into screenplays; in 1969 he
20 was the co-writer of the movie "Beyond the Valley of the
21 Dolls", a film that has since achieved cult status; and

1 WHEREAS, Roger Ebert founded the annual Roger Ebert Film
2 Festival, known as Ebertfest, originally called Roger Ebert's
3 Overlooked Film Festival; and

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

7 WHEREAS, Roger Ebert was a pioneer of film journalism and
8 was the greatest of his craft; 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" Hammelsmith in July 1992; and

15 WHEREAS, Roger Ebert is survived by his beloved wife, Chaz;
16 therefore, be it

17 RESOLVED, BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE
18 NINETY-EIGHTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, that
19 we mourn the passing of Roger Ebert, and extend our sincere
20 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.