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HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION

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WHEREAS, The members of the Illinois General Assembly are  
3 saddened to learn of the death of Henry "Hank" Martinez; and

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WHEREAS, Henry Martinez was born in Chicago to parents who  
5 came from Guanajuato, Mexico; and

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WHEREAS, Henry Martinez dedicated his life to provide  
guidance for youth and to empower Latino communities; he was  
the Founder and Executive Director of the Mexican Community  
Committee, which was established to reduce crime and gang  
activity and was the first entity of its kind in the southeast  
community of Chicago; he was the Founder and Director of the  
Latino Resource Institute of Illinois, which also houses an  
Illinois Welcoming Center and Family Advocacy Center; he served  
as Senior Supervisor at the Chicago Area Project, which  
addresses juvenile delinquency in some of the poorest  
communities of the City of Chicago; he launched the first  
Latino community college program in southeast Chicago,  
"Projecto Venceremos", which was later adopted by the City  
Colleges of Chicago; he also served as part of Governor  
Ogilvie's Spanish Speaking Peoples Study Commission in the  
early 1970s, one of the first Latino commissions in the nation;  
and

1           WHEREAS, Over 3 decades later, Henry Martinez became  
2 convinced that Latinos needed a voice inside State government  
3 more than ever, which led him to become the visionary force  
4 behind the creation of the Illinois Latino Family Commission;  
5 he began serving as the organization's chairman in 2010 and led  
6 the efforts to fight for Latino equity and inclusion; and

7           WHEREAS, Henry Martinez served his country as a member of  
8 the United States military during the Korean War; he  
9 subsequently made it his mission to ensure that Latino veterans  
10 have a voice and access to well-deserved support; he was the  
11 founder of the Latino Veterans Committee of the Illinois Latino  
12 Family Commission to provide a forum to connect Latino veterans  
13 throughout the State to resources and each other; he led the  
14 efforts to establish a Vietnam veterans memorial in south  
15 Chicago that stands as a testament today to his commitment to  
16 his fellow veterans; he was also an active member of the  
17 American G.I. Forum and numerous boards, councils, and  
18 commissions throughout his many years of service and advocacy;  
19 and

20           WHEREAS, Henry Martinez graduated from Roosevelt  
21 University and the University of Chicago and held a master's  
22 degree in Juvenile Justice from Chicago State University; and

23           WHEREAS, Henry Martinez will be fondly remembered by those

1 who knew and loved him for his roles as community organizer,  
2 youth advocate, government worker, consultant, journalist,  
3 social worker, executive director, Latino community leader,  
4 and devoted father, as well as his work as an action-oriented  
5 leader that accomplished many firsts on behalf of the Latino  
6 community; and

7 WHEREAS, Henry Martinez is survived by his wife, Linda; his  
8 daughters, Alison and Kristal; and his new baby grandson;  
9 therefore, be it

10 RESOLVED, BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE  
11 NINETY-NINTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, THE  
12 SENATE CONCURRING HEREIN, that we, along with his family and  
13 friends, mourn the passing of Henry "Hank" Martinez; and be it  
14 further

15 RESOLVED, That a suitable copy of this resolution be  
16 presented to the family of Henry Martinez as an expression of  
17 our sympathy.