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HOUSE RESOLUTION

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WHEREAS, The members of the Illinois House of Representatives are saddened to learn of the untimely death of Andrew Patner on February 3, 2015; and

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WHEREAS, Andrew Patner was born on December 17, 1959, the son of Irene and Marshall Patner; he grew up in Chicago's Hyde Park neighborhood and attended William H. Ray Elementary School and Kenwood High School; and

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WHEREAS, After working as a staff assistant to Congressman Ralph H. Metcalfe in Washington, D.C., Andrew attended the University of Chicago, where he studied liberal arts and history and was editor-in-chief of The Chicago Maroon; he received his bachelor's degree in history from the University of Wisconsin-Madison, thesis of distinction, in 1985; and

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WHEREAS, Andrew's amazing ability to communicate compelling stories, both verbally and in the written word, allowed him to share his talents with Chicago and the rest of the world; a published author, classical music writer, freelance writer, former reporter for The Wall Street Journal, former staff writer and editor at Chicago Magazine, and critic, host, and producer for Chicago's National Public Radio affiliate, WBEZ; he brought current events and the arts to life

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1 for his scores of readers and listeners; his significant
2 talents were recognized with a 1984 Peter Lisagor Award for his
3 coverage of race and politics leading up to Harold Washington's
4 election as mayor of Chicago and the 2000 James Friend Memorial
5 Award from The Friends of Literature for his criticism of the
6 arts; and

7 WHEREAS, Andrew's love of the arts, especially the arts in
8 Chicago, was unparalleled; he immersed himself in modern and
9 contemporary art, European painting and sculpture, world
10 cultures, photography, art history, and architecture; his
11 multifarious interests and expansive breadth of knowledge
12 allowed him to be as comfortable discussing local politics and
13 Chicago history as he was critiquing the latest musical
14 performance at the Lyric Opera of Chicago; and

15 WHEREAS, Andrew was critic-at-large for WFMT Fine Arts
16 Radio Chicago, where he hosted the weekly conversation program
17 Critical Thinking; his Critic's Choice commentaries were heard
18 3 times each week; and

19 WHEREAS, As a contributing critic to the Chicago Sun-Times,
20 Andrew covered classical music and opera, theater and dance,
21 art and architecture, cabaret, books, and film; he appeared as
22 a commentator on cultural and political matters for WTTW 11
23 television; and

1 WHEREAS, Andrew was a pre-concert speaker and interviewer
2 at the Chicago Symphony Orchestra and accompanied the orchestra
3 on numerous tours to Europe, the East Coast, Japan, and South
4 America; he was a mainstay at all of Chicago's major cultural
5 institutions, including the Lyric Opera, Steppenwolf Theater,
6 the Art Institute, the Field Museum, Chicago Opera Theater, and
7 the Chicago Humanities Festival; he lectured on modern and
8 contemporary music at the Risor Chamber Music Festival in
9 Risor, Norway; he taught students from around the world for the
10 Soros Foundations/Open Society Institute Council; and he
11 served as co-chair of the Interarts Council of The Arts Club of
12 Chicago, member of the Visiting Committee to the Department of
13 Music of the University of Chicago, and board member of KAM
14 Isaiah Israel Congregation, the Chicago Children's Choir, and
15 the Independent Voters of Illinois; and

16 WHEREAS, Andrew was a charter member of the Association of
17 Literary Scholars and Critics, a founding member of the Chicago
18 Art Critics Association, and a member of the Music Critics
19 Association of North America, the Authors Guild, Inc., and the
20 executive committee of the American Theater Critics
21 Association; he was the first director of the Programs on Arts
22 Policy at Columbia College Chicago and a director of the
23 Minority High School Summer Journalism Camp at Roosevelt
24 University; he was inducted into the Chicago Gay and Lesbian

1 Hall of Fame in 2013; and

2 WHEREAS, Andrew was known for his sense of humor and for
3 his profound intelligence and his passion for Chicago; his
4 sudden passing is a devastating loss for his family, his wide
5 circle of friends, and all those who admired his work; and

6 WHEREAS, Andrew is survived by his partner, Tom Bachtell;
7 his mother, Irene; and his brothers, Seth and Joshua;
8 therefore, be it

9 RESOLVED, BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE
10 NINETY-NINTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, that
11 we, along with his family, friends, and colleagues, mourn the
12 passing of Andrew Patner; and be it further

13 RESOLVED, That a suitable copy of this resolution be
14 presented to the family of Andrew Patner as an expression of
15 our deepest sympathies and respect.