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SENATE RESOLUTION

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WHEREAS, The members of the Illinois Senate are 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 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

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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 was preceded in death by his
8 parents, Rafael, Sr. and Josephine Martinez, and his siblings,
9 Dennis Martinez, Leobardo Martinez, Lorenzo Martinez, Frank
10 Martinez, Paul Martinez, Evelyn Martinez, and Genevive Torres;
11 and

12 WHEREAS, Henry Martinez is survived by his wife, Linda (nee
13 Rico); his daughters, Alison Itzel Martinez and Kristal Fatima
14 Martinez; his grandson, Henry Nathan Figueroa; and his
15 siblings, Michael Martinez, Rafael Martinez, Constance Perez,
16 Nadien Guerin, and Judith Rodriguez; therefore, be it

17 RESOLVED, BY THE SENATE OF THE NINETY-NINTH GENERAL
18 ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, that we, along with his
19 family and friends, mourn the passing of Henry "Hank" Martinez;
20 and be it further

21 RESOLVED, That a suitable copy of this resolution be
22 presented to the family of Henry Martinez as an expression of

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1 our sympathy.