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LRB099 20982 GRL 49245 r

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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 John Joseph "Johnny" Lattner of Melrose Park, who passed away on February 13, 2016; and

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WHEREAS, Johnny Lattner attended Fenwick High School from 1947 to 1950, where he excelled in both basketball and football; in 1949, he led the basketball team to a 22 and 7 record and the Chicago Catholic League Championship, the first of back-to-back championships; he was affectionately known as "Mr. Fenwick"; Fenwick High School retired his jersey number in 2007, the first Fenwick athlete to receive such an honor; and

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WHEREAS, Johnny Lattner was a frequent and enthusiastic visitor to basketball and football games at Fenwick High School and in the community, particularly those games when his grandchildren were playing; and

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WHEREAS, Johnny Lattner attended the University of Notre Dame, where he was a two-time All-American and won the Maxwell Award as the best player in college football in 1952 and 1953; he won the 1953 Heisman Trophy and would often loan his trophy out to charities and fundraising organizations as a way to help them raise money; he was inducted into the Fenwick Hall of Fame and the College Football Hall of Fame in 1979; and

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1           WHEREAS, Johnny Lattner was drafted into the National  
2           Football League in the first round in 1954; he played briefly  
3           for the Pittsburgh Steelers, making the Pro Bowl as a rookie;  
4           he then joined the United States Air Force to fulfill a  
5           two-year ROTC commitment; and

6           WHEREAS, Johnny Lattner coached football at the University  
7           of Denver until 1961; he operated Johnny Lattner's Steakhouse  
8           in the Loop; he worked in the printing business as  
9           Vice-President of Sales at Pal Graphics in Broadview when he  
10          retired from the restaurant business; and

11          WHEREAS, Johnny Lattner was preceded in death by his  
12          siblings, William Lattner and Patricia Brennan; and

13          WHEREAS, Johnny Lattner is survived by his wife, Peggy; his  
14          children, Jack (Ann) Lattner, Bill (Sheri) Lattner, Tim  
15          (Virginia) Lattner, Michael (Jen) Lattner, Kate (Pete) Gancer,  
16          Maggie (Larry) Skiver, Tricia (Bill) Smith, and Gretchen (Mike)  
17          Spillane; and his 26 grandchildren; therefore, be it

18          RESOLVED, BY THE SENATE OF THE NINETY-NINTH GENERAL  
19          ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, that we mourn the passing of  
20          John Joseph "Johnny" Lattner, 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 Johnny Lattner as an expression of  
4 our deepest sympathy.