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## SENATE RESOLUTION

2           WHEREAS, The members of the Illinois Senate are saddened  
3 to learn of the death of Jay Berwanger of Oak Brook, who  
4 passed away June 26, 2002, at the age of 88; and

5           WHEREAS, Mr. Berwanger was born March 19, 1914, in  
6 Dubuque, Iowa; in high school, he excelled at wrestling,  
7 track, and football, winning renown as an all-state  
8 half-back; after graduation, he was recruited by Iowa,  
9 Michigan, Minnesota, and Purdue universities, but he opted  
10 for the University of Chicago, where he graduated with a  
11 business management degree in 1936; and

12           WHEREAS, Mr. Berwanger won the first Heisman Trophy in  
13 1935; he gained 1,839 yards on 439 carries and completed 50  
14 passes in 146 attempts for 921 yards for the University of  
15 Chicago from 1933 to 1935; he scored 22 touchdowns and kicked  
16 22 extra points; and

17           WHEREAS, During his senior year, Mr. Berwanger tallied  
18 577 rushing yards, 405 passing yards, and 359 yards on  
19 kickoff returns, while scoring six touchdowns and kicking  
20 five extra points; he also played defense; and

21           WHEREAS, Mr. Berwanger led the University of Chicago to a  
22 7-6 victory over the University of Illinois in his final game  
23 on November 23, 1935, in Champaign; he returned a punt 49  
24 yards to Illinois' 1-yard line by shaking off 5 tacklers to  
25 set up his own third-down touchdown and extra-point kick in  
26 the third quarter that erased a 6-0 deficit; and

27           WHEREAS, Mr. Berwanger was the first pick of the first  
28 NFL draft in 1936; the Chicago Bears then earned his rights,  
29 but Berwanger opted to start a successful business career in  
30 manufacturing plastic and rubber strips for vehicles and  
31 machinery; and

1           WHEREAS, In 1954, Mr. Berwanger was inducted into the  
2 College Football Hall of Fame and remained active in Heisman  
3 voting; in his spare time, he wrote a sports column for the  
4 Chicago Daily News, refereed college football games, and from  
5 1936 to 1939, coached football at the University of Chicago;  
6 he had a bit part playing himself in the 1936 movie "The Big  
7 Game"; Mr. Berwanger was also the only Heisman recipient who  
8 was ever tackled by a future president of the United States,  
9 Gerald Ford; and

10           WHEREAS, During World War II, Mr. Berwanger enrolled in  
11 the Navy's flight training program and became a naval  
12 officer; after the war he set up his own business, Jay  
13 Berwanger Inc., in Downers Grove; the firm manufactured  
14 plastic and sponge rubber strips for car doors and trunks and  
15 for farm machinery; he retired in January, 2002; and

16           WHEREAS, Mr. Berwanger will be deeply missed by all those  
17 who knew him and loved him, especially his children, John Jay  
18 (Pat), Cuyler (Jackie), Helen (John) Tierney, Barbara Fewkes,  
19 Joseph "Marsh" Temple, and Marianne Gerwing; his many  
20 grandchildren and great-grandchildren; and his sisters, Betty  
21 Lungwitz and Eleanor Von Pein; he was preceded in death by  
22 his first and second wives, Philomela and Jane; his brother,  
23 Paul; and his sister, Dorothy; therefore, be it

24           RESOLVED, BY THE SENATE OF THE NINETY-SECOND GENERAL  
25 ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, that we mourn the passing  
26 of Jay Berwanger of Oak Brook; and be it further

27           RESOLVED, That a suitable copy of this resolution be  
28 presented to the family of Jay Berwanger with our sincere  
29 condolences.