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HOUSE RESOLUTION

2           WHEREAS, The members of the Illinois House of  
3 Representatives are saddened to learn of the death of Henry  
4 Irving Thomas Jr., who passed away on January 27, 2018; and

5           WHEREAS, Henry Thomas Jr. was born in Chicago to Henry Sr.  
6 and Gloria (Ward) Thomas on April 5, 1953; he was raised on the  
7 South Side and attended Harlan High School, where he was a star  
8 basketball player; one of his greatest accomplishments was when  
9 the basketball team beat DuSable to win the Chicago City  
10 Championship in 1970; he attended Bradley University on a full  
11 basketball scholarship; he graduated in 1974 with a Bachelor of  
12 Science in Accounting, and he then attended DePaul University,  
13 where he received his Juris Doctor and Legum Magister in  
14 Taxation; and

15           WHEREAS, Henry Thomas Jr. worked as a specialist with  
16 Cooper & Lybrand, now PricewaterhouseCoopers, for several  
17 years; while at DePaul on a teaching fellowship, he created the  
18 school's first sports law course, which he taught for 23 years;  
19 he joined the Chicago law firm Carney & Brothers, Ltd. in 1984;  
20 there, he signed his first client, Tim Hardaway; and

21           WHEREAS, In 1989, Thomas Henry Jr. formed his own  
22 management company, Thomas Sports Management (TSM); his

1 clients included NBA players Lindsay Hunter, Michael Finley,  
2 Donnie Boyce, Anthony Parker and Charles Smith; in 2002, he  
3 sold TSM to Collegiate Sports Management Group (CSMG), and in  
4 his first year, signed Tim James, Marcus Fizer, Bobbi Simmons,  
5 Chris Bosh, Dwyane Wade, Udonis Haslem, Dee Brown, and Ronnie  
6 Brewer; and

7 WHEREAS, In 2009, Henry Thomas Jr. joined entertainment and  
8 sports agency Creative Artists Agency (CAA), where he was  
9 instrumental in building the foundation of its basketball group  
10 and establishing the agency's presence in Chicago; in addition  
11 to adding TJ Warren, DeAndre Liggins, and Manny Harris, he also  
12 managed the increasing demands of two of the "Big 3" Miami Heat  
13 Players; and

14 WHEREAS, Henry Thomas Jr. had the ability to connect with  
15 athletes on a personal level, which made him effective and  
16 beloved; he remained close to his Harlan High School roots and  
17 his 95th Street community; in 2011, he spearheaded the effort  
18 to refurbish the gym floor at Harlan High school, which  
19 commemorated the 40th anniversary of the City Championship win;  
20 the new floor was named after his high school coach and mentor,  
21 Lee Umbles; and

22 WHEREAS, Henry Thomas Jr. is survived by his wife, Susan;  
23 his daughters, Hillary and Jaye; his son, Ryan; his sister,

1 Sharon (Douglas); his niece, Lindsay (Andy); and his grandniece  
2 Rilyn; therefore, be it

3       RESOLVED, BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE  
4 HUNDREDTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, that we  
5 mourn the passing of Henry Irving Thomas Jr. and extend our  
6 sincere condolences to his family, friends, and all who knew  
7 and loved him; and be it further

8       RESOLVED, That a suitable copy of this resolution be  
9 presented to the family of Henry Thomas Jr. as an expression of  
10 our deepest sympathy.