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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 Edward M. "Ed" Czerkies of Joliet, who passed away on November 16, 2018; and

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WHEREAS, Ed Czerkies was born in the back seat of the family car on the way to Silver Cross Hospital in 1937 to Mary (Sowa) and Michael Czerkies; he attended St. Thaddeus Elementary School and graduated from Joliet Central High School in 1955; he earned his way through college working construction for his older brother and graduated with a degree in education from Northern Illinois University; and

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WHEREAS, Ed Czerkies became a substitute teacher at Joliet Central, Joliet West, Providence Catholic, and Lockport High School; his passion for construction drove him to open Czerkies Construction in 1959; over the next 40 years, he poured many sidewalks and driveways, built many homes, and worked on several industrial facilities within Joliet, Shorewood, Lockport, and Plainfield; and

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WHEREAS, Ed Czerkies married Carolyn in 1965; together they acquired various industrial, commercial, and agricultural properties throughout Illinois; in 1998, he began what he said was the most important job of his life, being a full-time

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1 caregiver to Carolyn; and

2 WHEREAS, Ed Czerkies made several contributions to various
3 educational, healthcare, and charitable institutions,
4 including the Mayo Clinic as a principal benefactor, the
5 International Myeloma Foundation, Silver Cross Hospital, the
6 Presence St. Joseph Medical Center, the Joliet Junior College
7 Scholarship Fund, the Will County Children's Advocacy Center,
8 the Will-Grundy Medical Clinic, the Cathedral of St. Raymond,
9 the Holy Family Parish, and countless others; and

10 WHEREAS, Ed Czerkies was a proud member of several
11 organizations throughout the area, including the Joliet Region
12 Chamber of Commerce, the Midland States Bank Advisory Board,
13 and the Woodedcreek Homeowners Association; and

14 WHEREAS, Ed Czerkies was honored with the 2017 Joliet
15 Region Chamber of Commerce and Industry's Lifetime Achievement
16 Award, the 2018 Joliet Junior College's Distinguished Alumni
17 Achievement Award, the Silver Cross's 2018 Sangmeister Medal of
18 Excellence for Community Service, and the Presence St. Joseph
19 Medical Center's 2018 Founders' Award; and

20 WHEREAS, Ed Czerkies enjoyed golfing, fishing, hunting,
21 traveling, and playing the slots; he cherished his time spent
22 with his grandchildren, including waterpark adventures and

1 watching them play sports; and

2 WHEREAS, Ed Czerkies was preceded in death by his parents;
3 his wife, Carolyn (Zupancic); an infant brother; his brothers,
4 Joe and Pete; and his sisters, Helen Bolek and Sophie Bajt; and

5 WHEREAS, Ed Czerkies is survived by his sisters, Olga
6 Schmidt and Jennie Koerner; his sons, Craig (Bonny), David
7 (Sandra), and Scott (Laura); his grandchildren, Lanie, Miles,
8 Charlie, Cole, Louie, Jack, and Drake; his dear companion,
9 Arlene Plese; and numerous nieces, nephews, and cousins;
10 therefore, be it

11 RESOLVED, BY THE SENATE OF THE ONE HUNDREDTH GENERAL
12 ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, that we mourn the passing of
13 Edward M. "Ed" Czerkies and extend our sincere condolences to
14 his family, friends, and all who knew and loved him; and be it
15 further

16 RESOLVED, That a suitable copy of this resolution be
17 presented to the family of Ed Czerkies as an expression of our
18 deepest sympathy.