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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 Thomas J. "Tom" Costello of Urbana, who passed away on April 15, 2020; and

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WHEREAS, Tom Costello was born in Chicago to Tom and Dorothy Zobel Costello on August 25, 1949; he attended St. Ignatius College Prep in Chicago; he earned his bachelor's degree at John Carroll University in Cleveland and his master's degree from Miami University of Ohio; he then attended the University of Illinois, where he worked toward a doctorate; he married Rosemary Lakatos on May 24, 1974; and

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WHEREAS, Tom Costello became a part-time bus driver for the Champaign-Urbana Mass Transit District in May of 1974; he eventually became the assistant managing director, becoming a friend, guide, and mentor to hundreds of employees over the 40 years he worked with the organization; and

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WHEREAS, Tom Costello was an avid volunteer in his adopted hometown; he served as a volunteer youth coach for soccer, basketball, and baseball; he frequently acted as an emcee or an auctioneer at community events; he served on the boards of many organizations, including the United Way, the Community Foundation of East Central Illinois, the Champaign Rotary, the

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1 Developmental Services Center, the Illini Media Company, the
2 C-U Schools Foundation, the Freedom Celebration Committee, the
3 Champaign County Clock and Bell Tower Committee, and the
4 Champaign County Design and Conservation Foundation; he was a
5 member of the University of Illinois Faculty Senate; he also
6 was an Urbana City Council member and was the first chair of
7 the Urbana Civilian Police Review Board; and

8 WHEREAS, Tom Costello was a senior instructor in the
9 Department of Communication at the University of Illinois,
10 where he taught an introductory speaking course and courses in
11 leadership, business, and professional speaking; he was
12 regularly recognized for "Excellence in Undergraduate
13 Teaching"; and

14 WHEREAS, Tom Costello followed sports, especially his
15 former U of I students, some of whom became professional
16 athletes; he enjoyed Westerns, theater, especially Broadway
17 musicals, fishing, dining out, cooking massive amounts of food
18 for large crowds, and organizing events for two to 2,000; he
19 liked to travel and took his children to Europe several times,
20 once to see sites in Italy, where his beloved father helped
21 send the Axis to defeat in World War II; and

22 WHEREAS, Tom Costello loved his family, community,
23 students, co-workers, and neighbors; he was a friend to many,

1 including the receptionist at the doctor's office, the
2 attendant at the drive-thru restaurant, and the checkout clerk
3 at the grocery store; his goal was to make his community a
4 better place, and the proof of success is in his legion of
5 friends and admirers; and

6 WHEREAS, Tom Costello was preceded in death by his son,
7 Patrick; and

8 WHEREAS, Tom Costello is survived by his wife, Rosemary;
9 his sons, Joseph (Kaitlin) and Jack (Laura); and his
10 grandchildren, Libby and Rory; therefore, be it

11 RESOLVED, BY THE SENATE OF THE ONE HUNDRED FIRST GENERAL
12 ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, that we mourn the passing of
13 Thomas J. "Tom" Costello 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 Tom Costello as an expression of our
18 deepest sympathy.