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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 Dr. Richard Marshall Cronin of Elmhurst, who passed away on February 27, 2016; and

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WHEREAS, Dr. Richard Cronin was born in Oak Park; he married Claire Cusack in 1952; and

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WHEREAS, Dr. Richard Cronin graduated from Fenwick High School and then attended Notre Dame University, where he was a walk-on starter on the university's 1945 football team, playing both offense and defense; after graduating from Notre Dame in 1946, he earned his medical degree in 1950 from Loyola University; he then completed his medical residency at the University of Illinois Research and Education Hospital in Chicago; and

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WHEREAS, In 1954, Dr. Richard Cronin enlisted in the United States Air Force and worked for two years as an orthopedic surgery resident at Chanute Air Force Base in Rantoul; and

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WHEREAS, Dr. Richard Cronin began a medical practice in the near west suburbs, opening an office in Oak Park and seeing patients at Elmhurst Memorial Hospital, St. Anne's Hospital, and Loretto Hospital; in 1960, he and his family moved from

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1 River Forest to Elmhurst; in the early 1960s, he brought
2 together a group of about 10 doctors who purchased land at the
3 corner of Palmer Drive and Kenilworth Avenue in Elmhurst and
4 constructed a medical office building, which still stands
5 today; in 1986, he bought out his other partners and took full
6 ownership of the building; and

7 WHEREAS, Dr. Richard Cronin was proud of his ties to Notre
8 Dame, and had become a go-to specialist for athletes with
9 injuries by the mid-1960s; during a spring practice in 1964,
10 Notre Dame quarterback and eventual Heisman Trophy winner John
11 Huarte separated his shoulder; doctors at a South Bend, Indiana
12 hospital told Huarte that surgery was necessary; at that point,
13 legendary Notre Dame coach Ara Parseghian stepped in and
14 encouraged Huarte to visit Dr. Cronin to see if surgery was
15 really necessary; Huarte and Notre Dame backfield coach Tom
16 Pagna, drove to the Chicago area to be examined by Dr. Cronin,
17 who recommended rest instead of surgery; Huarte, who went on to
18 play in the NFL for teams including the Chicago Bears, said
19 that Dr. Cronin's recommendation "basically just saved my
20 career"; and

21 WHEREAS, Dr. Richard Cronin was a clinical professor of
22 medicine at Loyola University and the vice chairman and program
23 director of the Medical School's department of orthopedics; he
24 also enjoyed working along the sidelines of football games at

1 York and Immaculate Conception High Schools in Elmhurst, as
2 well as at his alma mater, Fenwick High School, offering help
3 to athletes suffering sprains, fractures, and other injuries;
4 and

5 WHEREAS, After retiring from his medical practice in the
6 1990s, Dr. Richard Cronin remained active in the lives of his
7 nine children and his many grandchildren; he also took a keen
8 interest in politics, assisting his son during political
9 campaigns for the Illinois Senate and for the DuPage County
10 Board, and continued to manage his medical office building; and

11 WHEREAS, Dr. Richard Cronin is survived by his wife,
12 Claire; his sons, Dan, Rich, Brian, Thomas, and John Cronin;
13 his daughters, Cathleen, Cynthia Cronin Cahill, Rosanne Cronin
14 Pompe van Meerdervoort, and Sheila Cronin Bodee; and his 38
15 grandchildren; therefore, be it

16 RESOLVED, BY THE SENATE OF THE NINETY-NINTH GENERAL
17 ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, that we, along with his
18 family and friends, mourn the passing of Dr. Richard Marshall
19 Cronin; and be it further

20 RESOLVED, That a suitable copy of this resolution be
21 presented to the family of Dr. Richard Cronin as an expression
22 of our sympathy.