



HR0854

LRB104 21702 RMO 37296 r

1 HOUSE RESOLUTION

2 WHEREAS, The members of the Illinois House of
3 Representatives are deeply saddened to learn of the passing of
4 Pete Bill Kastanes of Oak Lawn on April 25, 2026; and

5 WHEREAS, Pete Kastanes was born in Oak Lawn on October 4,
6 1963 and was raised in the South Shore, Roseland, and Ashburn
7 neighborhoods; he was a proud graduate of Bogan High School
8 and DeVry University; and

9 WHEREAS, After a successful career with American Express
10 Travel, Pete Kastanes found his true calling as the founder
11 and administrator of Vanished Chicagoland, a digital gold mine
12 of history celebrating the city's past businesses,
13 restaurants, and landmarks; and

14 WHEREAS, Pete Kastanes amassed a following of more than a
15 quarter of a million people through his website, podcasts, and
16 social media presence, creating a vibrant community where
17 Chicagoans could share memories of pizzerias, toy stores, and
18 concert halls; and

19 WHEREAS, Pete Kastanes recorded over 500 podcast episodes,
20 using his nearly photographic memory to transport listeners
21 back to the Chicago of their youth; and

1 WHEREAS, Pete Kastanes received the Chicago History
2 Museum's Citizen Historian Award in February 2025 for making
3 history available to everyone and fostering a respectful,
4 nostalgia-driven community; and

5 WHEREAS, Pete Kastanes was a man of the people whose zest
6 for life, sense of humor, and passion for storytelling will be
7 missed by all who knew him; and

8 WHEREAS, Pete Kastanes was the cherished son of Zoe and
9 the late Christ Kastanes; the proud brother of Bill and John;
10 and a dear nephew and cousin to many; therefore, be it

11 RESOLVED, BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE
12 HUNDRED FOURTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, that
13 we mourn the passing of Pete Bill Kastanes and extend our
14 sincere condolences to his family, friends, and the many
15 followers of Vanished Chicagoland; and be it further

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