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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 Jerry "Iceman" Butler, who passed away on February 20, 2025; and

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WHEREAS, Jerry Butler's sharecropper parents moved his family from Mississippi to Chicago in 1942 when he was three years old; he grew up in what became the Cabrini-Green housing development on Chicago's Near North Side; he attended James A. Sexton School; he studied to be a chef at Washburne Trade School before embarking on his career in music; he married Annette Butler in 1959; and

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WHEREAS, Jerry Butler achieved fame as a member of the Impressions, who were inducted into the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame in 1991, and later as a solo soul artist; his songs have been sampled by numerous other musicians, including Missy Elliott, Snoop Dogg, Method Man, and The Game; he is a three-time Grammy Award nominee; he chaired the Rhythm & Blues Foundation, which provides a wide range of assistance to musicians and pushed the industry to provide medical and retirement benefits; and

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WHEREAS, Jerry Butler had a 32-year political career as a member of the Cook County Board and was the longtime chairman

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1 of the powerful Health and Hospitals Committee; while serving  
2 on the county board in 1993, he earned a master's degree in  
3 public administration from Governors State University; his  
4 true passion as a county commissioner was ensuring health care  
5 for all, and he was at the forefront in opening John H. Stroger  
6 Jr. Hospital of Cook County, replacing the old Cook County  
7 Hospital, in 2002; he retired from the county board in 2018;  
8 and

9 WHEREAS, Jerry Butler was preceded in death by his wife,  
10 Annette; and

11 WHEREAS, Jerry Butler is survived by his sons, Anthony and  
12 Randy; four grandchildren; and a great-grandchild; therefore,  
13 be it

14 RESOLVED, BY THE SENATE OF THE ONE HUNDRED FOURTH GENERAL  
15 ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, that we declare March 12,  
16 2025 as "Jerry Butler Day" in the State of Illinois; and be it  
17 further

18 RESOLVED, That we mourn the passing of Jerry "Iceman"  
19 Butler and extend our sincere condolences to his family,  
20 friends, and all who knew and loved him; and be it further

21 RESOLVED, That a suitable copy of this resolution be

1 presented to the family of Jerry Butler as an expression of our  
2 deepest sympathy.