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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 Brother Edward "Ed" Arambasich, OFM, who passed away on March 26, 2025; and

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WHEREAS, Br. Ed Arambasich was born to Joann (Mulvey) and Edward J. Arambasich Sr. in Joliet on October 7, 1951; in his youth, he served as an altar boy, demonstrating his commitment to helping others at an early age; he attended the former St. Ann School in Crest Hill and the former St. John the Baptist School; he graduated from Joliet Catholic High School, known today as Joliet Catholic Academy, in 1969; he later took a sabbatical year to study applied theology in Berkley, California in 2002; and

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WHEREAS, Br. Ed Arambasich worked briefly as an ironworker before professing his monastic vows on August 11, 1973; he served as a Benedictine monk for 20 years, during which time he worked as assistant dean of students at Benet Academy under the Diocese of Joliet, before joining the Franciscan Province of the Most Sacred Heart of Jesus in St. Louis, Missouri in 1992; he later returned to Joliet, where he worked in campus ministry at the University of St. Francis; and

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WHEREAS, Br. Ed Arambasich served as fire chaplain at Fire

1 Station No. 5 in Joliet from 1993 to 1995, in New Orleans,  
2 Louisiana from 1995 to 2001, and in Quincy, Illinois from 2003  
3 to 2016; he was transferred to serve as a chaplain at the St.  
4 Anthony Foundation in San Francisco, California in 2016 and  
5 then returned to Joliet to once again serve as a chaplain for  
6 the Joliet Fire Department; he also traveled to Ground Zero in  
7 New York City to comfort survivors of the September 11, 2001  
8 terrorist attacks; and

9 WHEREAS, Br. Ed Arambasich volunteered for children and  
10 adults with cerebral palsy, organizing outings and providing  
11 care characterized by patience, kindness, and love; he spent  
12 his weekends assisting nuns with cleaning and organizing  
13 classrooms, and he was known for raising funds for the poor and  
14 walking with the unhoused on retreats; and

15 WHEREAS, Br. Ed Arambasich was active in a number of  
16 groups that supported firefighters, and he ran a longtime blog  
17 called Fireman63; and

18 WHEREAS, Br. Ed Arambasich loved playing a good prank and  
19 ghost hunting, often organizing spooky and creepy adventures  
20 to local cemeteries; and

21 WHEREAS, Br. Ed Arambasich's life was marked by a profound  
22 dedication to service and compassion, and he leaves behind a

1 legacy of faith, kindness, and selflessness; he was a staunch  
2 advocate for the underprivileged, offering support to anyone  
3 in need, and he always fought injustice with steadfast truth  
4 and unconditional love; and

5 WHEREAS, Br. Ed Arambasich was preceded in death by his  
6 parents; his grandparents; his nephew, Neil; his cousins,  
7 Patty Jo Arambasich Craft, Bill Telfer, Mike Telfer, and Timmy  
8 Arambasich Sr.; his sister-in-law, April Arambasich; and  
9 numerous aunts and uncles; and

10 WHEREAS, Br. Ed Arambasich is survived by his siblings,  
11 Thomas (fiancee, Deborah Kilhafner) Arambasich, Pamela  
12 (Jeffrey) Walker, and Lori (Rick) Wrobel; his aunt, Judith  
13 Wetherbee; eight nieces and nephews; and many great-nieces and  
14 great-nephews; therefore, be it

15 RESOLVED, BY THE SENATE OF THE ONE HUNDRED FOURTH GENERAL  
16 ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, that we mourn the passing of  
17 Brother Edward "Ed" Arambasich, OFM and extend our sincere  
18 condolences to his family, friends, and all who knew and loved  
19 him; and be it further

20 RESOLVED, That a suitable copy of this resolution be  
21 presented to the family of Br. Ed Arambasich as an expression  
22 of our deepest sympathy.