



SR0602

LRB104 20531 ECR 34006 r

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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 James L. "Boz" O'Brien of Chicago; and

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WHEREAS, Boz O'Brien was a beloved South Side Chicagoan, community leader, and proprietor who was known for his amiability, generosity, sharp wit, and unwavering commitment to his family, friends, and community, qualities that defined both his personal life and his professional endeavors; and

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WHEREAS, Through his vision and hospitality, Boz O'Brien established Reilly's Daughter, which became far more than a neighborhood pub, growing into a place where Irish tradition lived and was shared across generations, where families gathered, and where every patron was treated like family the moment they walked through the door; and

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WHEREAS, Boz O'Brien believed that heritage was strongest when celebrated together, and under his guidance, Reilly's Daughter became home to cherished traditions, including the beloved Irish soda bread contest, where family recipes, friendly rivalry, and community pride were joyfully shared, strengthening bonds among neighbors and preserving Irish culture on the South Side of Chicago; and

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1 WHEREAS, Boz O'Brien made Reilly's Daughter a gathering
2 place for Fighting Irish faithful, where Notre Dame football
3 Saturdays were observed with near-religious devotion, spirited
4 debate, and the enduring belief that next year was always
5 going to be the year; and

6 WHEREAS, Under Boz's O'Brien's watch, Reilly's Daughter
7 became a place for every season of life, where families
8 gathered to mourn a loss, celebrate milestones, and to mark
9 21st birthdays with pride and laughter, always with his steady
10 presence and watchful eye to ensure that all felt welcome and
11 made it home safely; and

12 WHEREAS, Boz O'Brien possessed the rare gift of bringing
13 people together, and Reilly's Daughter reflected that gift by
14 welcoming neighbors, public servants, tradesmen, first-time
15 visitors, and lifelong regulars alike, all drawn in by his
16 warmth, humor, and unmistakable South Side Irish spirit; and

17 WHEREAS, When Boz O'Brien brought Reilly's Daughter to
18 Chicago Midway International Airport, he ensured that
19 travelers passing through the city could experience a true
20 taste of South Side Irish hospitality, sometimes before they
21 even found their gate, demonstrating his belief that no one
22 should leave Chicago without a proper welcome or a proper
23 pint; and

1 WHEREAS, Through Reilly's Daughter and his lifelong
2 dedication to community, Boz O'Brien created a place that felt
3 like home to thousands, leaving behind a legacy that lives on
4 in every story told, every toast raised, every loaf shared,
5 and every memory made within its walls; and

6 WHEREAS; Boz O'Brien's life and work left an enduring mark
7 on generations of Illinois residents, and he will be
8 remembered by the many individuals whose lives were enriched
9 by his kindness and magnanimity; therefore, be it

10 RESOLVED, BY THE SENATE OF THE ONE HUNDRED FOURTH GENERAL
11 ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, that we mourn the passing of
12 James L. "Boz" O'Brien, and extend our sincere condolences to
13 his family, friends, and all who knew and loved him; and be it
14 further

15 RESOLVED, That a suitable copy of this resolution be
16 presented to the family of Boz O'Brien as an expression of our
17 deepest sympathy.