



SR0626

LRB104 20847 RMO 34445 r

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SENATE RESOLUTION

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WHEREAS, The members of the Illinois Senate are pleased to  
3 congratulate the DeGeratto family and Buddy Bear Car Wash on  
4 the City of Chicago designating "Buddy Bear Way" as an  
5 honorary street name at 5400 West Chicago Avenue at Lotus  
6 Avenue, the original site of the first Buddy Bear Food Center;  
7 and

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WHEREAS, The honorary designation recognizes the enduring  
9 legacy of Phillip "Papa Bear" DeGeratto and Phillip "Buddy  
10 Bear" DeGeratto, whose lives and work exemplified dedication  
11 to family, faith, entrepreneurship, and community service on  
12 Chicago's West Side; and

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WHEREAS, The DeGeratto family has lived and worked on  
14 Chicago's West Side for nearly a century, serving as lifelong  
15 residents, business owners, and community leaders whose  
16 commitment has strengthened neighborhoods and uplifted  
17 generations of residents; and

18

WHEREAS, Phillip "Papa Bear" DeGeratto and Phillip "Buddy  
19 Bear" DeGeratto founded and operated Big Bear Foods, Buddy  
20 Bear Finer Foods, and Buddy Bear Car Wash, businesses that  
21 became anchors in their communities and models of locally  
22 rooted entrepreneurship; and

1           WHEREAS, Through nearly 70 years of community engagement,  
2           the DeGeratto family has created jobs, supported local hiring  
3           initiatives, and advocated for food security, public safety,  
4           youth employment, and reentry employment opportunities for  
5           returning citizens; and

6           WHEREAS, The DeGeratto family's businesses and family  
7           foundation have sponsored schools, youth programs, community  
8           events, and neighborhood initiatives, and thousands of  
9           residents have benefited from their employment opportunities,  
10          mentorship, and generosity; and

11          WHEREAS, The DeGeratto family has been honored over the  
12          years by local alderpersons, school councils, and neighborhood  
13          organizations in recognition of their sustained civic  
14          involvement and charitable contributions; and

15          WHEREAS, The proposed installation of the honorary street  
16          sign at or near 5400 West Chicago Avenue at Lotus Avenue,  
17          marking the location of the first Buddy Bear Food Center,  
18          ensures that this multigenerational legacy will be permanently  
19          recognized in the very community it helped build; and

20          WHEREAS, This honorary designation was nominated and  
21          sponsored by Alderwoman Emma Mitts, who worked alongside the

1 DeGeratto family in professional and community capacities for  
2 more than 20 years and witnessed firsthand their unwavering  
3 commitment to Chicago's West Side; therefore, be it

4       RESOLVED, BY THE SENATE OF THE ONE HUNDRED FOURTH GENERAL  
5 ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, that we honor the memory and  
6 legacy of Phillip "Papa Bear" DeGeratto and Phillip "Buddy  
7 Bear" DeGeratto and commend Buddy Bear Car Wash and the  
8 DeGeratto family for their extraordinary and lasting  
9 contributions to the City of Chicago and the State of  
10 Illinois; and be it further

11       RESOLVED, That suitable copies of this resolution be  
12 presented to the DeGeratto family and to Buddy Bear Car Wash as  
13 a symbol of our respect, admiration, and esteem.