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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 "Jim" L. Dooley, of River Forest, who passed away on August 8, 2025, at the age of 76; and

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WHEREAS, Jim Dooley was born in River Forest to Tom and Avis (McMullin) Dooley in 1948; and

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WHEREAS, Jim Dooley attended St. Luke School, Fenwick High School, Loyola University and Roosevelt University; and

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WHEREAS, Jim Dooley, a talented musician, vocalist, guitarist, arranger, and prolific songwriter, poet, artist, and nature photographer, formed the original Dooley musical group with his brothers in 1966, and the band has given thousands of performances, enduring as a Chicago-area institution for six decades; and

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WHEREAS, Jim Dooley came from a very musical and artistic family, with his maternal grandfather performing Irish music hall ballads on Lake Michigan cruise ships and at Strening's Saloon on the near Southwest Side of Chicago and his paternal grandfather being a popular fiddler from County Clare, Ireland, who settled in the Chicago area; and

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1 WHEREAS, Jim Dooley started singing at home with his
2 brothers, harmonizing and recording the popular doo-wop songs
3 of the 1950s on a Webcor reel-to-reel tape recorder that their
4 father had given them for Christmas in 1956, and in their
5 appreciation of all kinds of music, they transitioned to
6 harmonizing barbershop quartet music and the songs of the
7 Kingston Trio and other folk music artists of the day; and

8 WHEREAS, Jim Dooley, during his high school days, fronted
9 a rock band with some friends called The Group Incorporated,
10 playing popular songs of the 1960s at local high school dances
11 in the Oak Park area; and

12 WHEREAS, When Jim Dooley and his brothers Joe and Bill
13 founded The Dooley Boys in 1966, they started playing at
14 colleges and various coffeehouses and nightclubs, especially
15 in the Old Town and Rush Street areas; a few years later, their
16 youngest brother Mike joined the group, and the four became
17 known as The Dooley Brothers; and

18 WHEREAS, Jim Dooley and the band performed regularly at
19 music clubs in the 1970s and 1980s on Chicago's North Side,
20 including The Roxy, The Barbarossa, The Bulls, Wise Fools Pub,
21 Orphans, Ratso's, Holsteins, The Earl of Old Town, Somebody
22 Else's Troubles, and The Kilkenny Castle Inn, one of their

1 favorites, with another of their regular spots being the Irish
2 American Heritage Center since the center opened in 1985; and

3 WHEREAS, This past March marked the Dooley Band's 40th
4 time performing at the St. Patrick's Day Celebration in
5 Berwyn, and they also played at Healy's, Molly Malone's, and
6 Goldyburgers in Forest Park; the band held many concert
7 appearances at Oak Park's Scoville Park, various River Forest
8 park venues, and the River Forest Public Library; and

9 WHEREAS, Jim Dooley and his brothers were featured on the
10 television show Nightclubbing on PBS Channel 11, at the King
11 Richard's Renaissance Faire in the 1970s, and as the house
12 band for Marshall Field's State Street store at Christmas, and
13 they spent summers performing in the pubs of County Clare,
14 Ireland while staying at their cousin's farm; and

15 WHEREAS, Jim Dooley and the band were joined in recent
16 years by some "next generation" Dooley family members,
17 including Jim's late son, Jimmy, who played with the band from
18 2015 through 2018, Mike's son, Mick, who joined in 2015 and
19 Jim's daughter, Claire, who started singing with the band in
20 2020; and

21 WHEREAS, Jim Dooley and the band recorded critically
22 acclaimed albums and CDs, including A Place in My Heart

1 (1983), which features his original compositions; subsequent
2 CD albums were titled The Road to Lisdoonvarna, Glad Magic,
3 and Black Sunshine, and a new album that Jim and the band just
4 completed recording will be released in the coming months; and

5 WHEREAS, Jim Dooley, besides his passion for music,
6 enjoyed Thatcher Woods, taking nature photos that were even
7 featured in the book Trailside Museum: The Legend of Virginia
8 Moe by Jane Morocco, and working on a short book called The
9 Hidden Passageways of River Forest, which mostly highlighted
10 his favorite hidden walking and biking paths, special places,
11 and stories of the village that he so loved; and

12 WHEREAS, WHEREAS, Jim Dooley was preceded in death by his
13 parents, Tom and Avis Dooley; his son, Jimmy; and his
14 brothers, Bill and Joe; and

15 WHEREAS, At the time of his passing, Jim Dooley was
16 survived by his wife, Anna; his daughter, Claire; his
17 brothers, Mike, Dennis, and Tom; his sisters-in-law; his aunts
18 and uncles; and his nieces and nephews; therefore, be it

19 RESOLVED, BY THE SENATE OF THE ONE HUNDRED FOURTH GENERAL
20 ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, that we mourn the passing of
21 James "Jim" L. Dooley and extend our sincere condolences to
22 his family, friends, and all who knew and loved him; and be it

1 further

2 RESOLVED, That a suitable copy of this resolution be
3 presented to the family of Jim Dooley as an expression of our
4 deepest sympathy.