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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 Sunil Puri, who passed away on March 8, 2026; and

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WHEREAS, Sunil Puri was born in Bombay (Mumbai), India to Amarnath and Chanchal Rani Puri on October 3, 1960; he immigrated to the United States in 1979 at the age of 18 and settled in Rockford; he graduated from Rockford College (now Rockford University) in 1982 with a degree in accounting; and

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WHEREAS, Sunil Puri founded the First Midwest Group in 1984, and under his leadership, the company grew into a preeminent development firm, reshaping the region with retail, office, and industrial projects and founding enduring ventures such as the Road Ranger travel center network; and

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WHEREAS, Sunil Puri was a dedicated humanitarian and civic partner; his philanthropic legacy includes the Puri School of Business at Rockford University, the Puri Family YMCA, the Salvation Army Puri Family Disaster Services Center, the Keeling-Puri Peace Plaza, the Perryville Path, the Puri Park Disc Golf Course, and donations of land for Remedies Renewing Lives and Rockford Christian Schools; and

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1 WHEREAS, Sunil Puri's influence extended nationally and
2 internationally; he advocated for stronger U.S.-India
3 relations and traveled to India with President Bill Clinton in
4 2000 and 2001 and with President Barack Obama in 2010; he was
5 appointed to the White House Commission on Asian Americans and
6 Pacific Islanders under President Obama and later served on
7 the President's Advisory Committee on the Arts for the John F.
8 Kennedy Center and the Presidential Commission for Scholars
9 under President Biden; he also supported numerous global
10 initiatives, including Water for Dignity in India; and

11 WHEREAS, Sunil Puri was a man of deep intellect and
12 passion, holding honorary doctorate degrees and attending
13 executive programs at London Business School and Harvard
14 Business School; he was actively involved with many
15 professional organizations, including the Young Presidents'
16 Organization (YPO), and served as a board member of the
17 Rockford Area Economic Development Council (RAEDC) and
18 Rockford University; he was known for his tenacity, his
19 loyalty to those he trusted, and his undying belief in the
20 meritocracy of America; and

21 WHEREAS, Sunil Puri was preceded in death by his parents
22 and his brothers, Harish, Dilip, and Dinesh Puri; and

23 WHEREAS, Sunil Puri is survived by his partner, Candace

1 Ross; his children, Ashwin, Chandan, and Anjali; his brothers,
2 Vijay (Vandana) and Pravin (Suman); his sisters-in-law,
3 Savrina and Madhu; his nephews, Bharat, Tanuj, Tushar, and
4 Ujwal; and his nieces, Rakhi, Sakshi, Upasana, Prerna, and
5 Roshni; therefore, be it

6 RESOLVED, BY THE SENATE OF THE ONE HUNDRED FOURTH GENERAL
7 ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, that we mourn the passing of
8 Sunil Puri and extend our sincere condolences to his family,
9 friends, and all who knew and loved him; and be it further

10 RESOLVED, That a suitable copy of this resolution be
11 presented to the family of Sunil Puri as an expression of our
12 deepest sympathy.