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SENATE RESOLUTION

2 WHEREAS, The members of the Illinois Senate are saddened
3 to learn of the death of William Paul "Bill" Colson, longtime
4 Chicago area resident, recently of St. James City, Pine
5 Island, Florida, who passed away on January 21, 2022; and

6 WHEREAS, Bill Colson was born on September 15, 1937; he
7 was raised in Evergreen Park and attended Evergreen Park
8 Public Grammar School; he graduated from Leo High School in
9 1955, John Carroll University in 1959, and Northwestern
10 University School of Law in 1962, where he was editor of the
11 Law Review and a member of the prestigious Order of the Coif;
12 he served as an officer in the U.S. Army Judge Advocate
13 General's Corps; and

14 WHEREAS, Bill Colson dedicated his professional life to
15 the pursuit of law, politics, and entrepreneurial endeavors;
16 he was legal counsel and co-owner of a production company that
17 produced concerts in the 1970s, showcasing such acts as
18 Michael Jackson and the Jackson Family, Ike and Tina Turner,
19 and Ray Charles; he founded the law firm Hynes, Colson, and
20 Karnezis with his friends and colleagues the Honorable Thomas
21 Hynes, Robert Hynes, and the Honorable Themis Karnezis; he
22 joined the law firm Finkel and Martwick, which continues as
23 Finkel, Martwick & Colson today; and

1 WHEREAS, Bill Colson served as the South Side campaign
2 manager with Thomas Hynes for Richard J. Daley for mayor in
3 1967; he was the statewide campaign director for Paul Simon
4 for lieutenant governor in 1968; he managed multiyear
5 campaigns for Thomas Hynes' run for Illinois Senate, Cook
6 County Assessor, and Chicago Mayor; he also managed multiyear
7 campaigns for Thomas Tully for Cook County Assessor and Neil
8 Hartigan for Illinois Attorney General; and

9 WHEREAS, Bill Colson was the past president of the South
10 Suburban Bar; he served as the attorney of Oak Lawn Village for
11 multiple years; and

12 WHEREAS, Bill Colson was a lifelong Chicago Cubs fan, an
13 avid fisherman, and a golfer dedicated to lowering his
14 handicap; and

15 WHEREAS, Bill Colson was truly respected by all who knew
16 him; and

17 WHEREAS, Bill Colson was preceded in death by his parents,
18 Paul and Eileen (Scott) Colson, and his former wife, Lenore T.
19 Colson; and

20 WHEREAS, Bill Colson is survived by his children, Candace

1 (Donald) Mitchell, Leah (Patrick) Carney, Paul (Stephanie),
2 and Brian (Teresa); his grandchildren, Kate Mitchell, Matthew
3 Mitchell, Michael Mitchell, Brianna Carney, Patrick Carney
4 Jr., Sophia Colson, Olivia Colson, Jack Colson, Finn Colson,
5 Madelyn Colson, and Grace Colson; his spirited dog, Sebastian;
6 his younger sisters, Judi Ross and Kathi (Bob) Mele; his
7 sister-in-law, Ann Kearney; his many Scott cousins, nieces,
8 and nephews; his many loyal friends; his dear friend, Jane
9 Lavelle; his trusted right hand for decades, Zoe Swanson; and
10 his companion, Meredith "Deanie" Peper; therefore, be it

11 RESOLVED, BY THE SENATE OF THE ONE HUNDRED SECOND GENERAL
12 ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, that we mourn the passing of
13 William Paul "Bill" Colson and extend our sincere condolences
14 to his family, friends, and all who knew and loved him; and be
15 it further

16 RESOLVED, That a suitable copy of this resolution be
17 presented to the family of Bill Colson as an expression of our
18 deepest sympathy.