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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. "Jim" Ranney of East Peoria, who passed away on August 29, 2022; and

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WHEREAS, Jim Ranney was born in East Peoria to James E. and Helen (Sperry) Ranney on October 19, 1938; he graduated from East Peoria Community High School in 1956 and earned a degree in biology at Eureka College in 1962; he married Sandra Ruth Pfeiffer in Ashton on December 29, 1963; and

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WHEREAS, Jim Ranney began his career in education as a science teacher and coach at Ashton Westview Jr. High School; then, while teaching at Woodruff High School in 1964, he attended Bradley University and received his master's degree in Guidance and Counseling; in 1970, he earned his Ph.D. in Educational Administration from Southern Illinois University, where he was awarded the Raymond Foster Memorial Scholarship; he then worked for the Troy Community Consolidated School District in Joliet as the Assistant Superintendent for Curriculum, Research, and Title Project and as a junior high school principal; and

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WHEREAS, Jim Ranney was named an Outstanding Young Man in America by the Phi Delta Kappa Professional Fraternity for Men

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1 in Education in 1972; he returned to the East Peoria area to  
2 become the Director of Elementary Curriculum for Peoria Public  
3 Schools in 1973, where he worked until he retired in 1993; and

4 WHEREAS, Jim Ranney was a proud resident of East Peoria  
5 and took great pride in being involved in the community; in  
6 1975, he became the Commissioner of Public Property for East  
7 Peoria; he also served as a board member for the Tri-County  
8 Planning Commission and as a member of the East Peoria Kiwanis  
9 Club and Bicentennial Commission; and

10 WHEREAS, Jim Ranney was elected mayor of East Peoria in  
11 1979, a position he proudly held until 1987; during his time as  
12 mayor, he served as the chairman of the Tri-County Mayor's  
13 Association and was a member of several local groups,  
14 including the East Peoria Chamber of Commerce, the Tri-County  
15 Economic Development Council, where he served as an executive  
16 committee member for three years, the Route 121 Task Force,  
17 the Central Illinois Alcoholism Council, Big Brothers/Big  
18 Sisters, the Peoria Lake/Illinois River Study Advisory  
19 Committee, the Eighteenth District Congressional Award  
20 Council, the Peoria Area Volunteer Fire Prevention Advisory  
21 Council, the Women Strength Sexual Assault Advisory Committee,  
22 the Tri-County Tomorrow Steering Committee, and the United Way  
23 Home Health Care Task Force; one of his greatest achievements  
24 as mayor was starting the Festival of Lights Parade in 1985;

1 and

2 WHEREAS, Jim Ranney was recognized in Who's Who in America  
3 in 1983 and the Directory of Distinguished Americans in 1984;  
4 he was named the East Peoria Citizen of the Year in 1986; in  
5 1987, he was honored as the Tri-County Citizen of the Year and  
6 was also awarded the Eureka College Alumni Award of Merit; he  
7 was honored by East Peoria with the public service building  
8 named after him; and

9 WHEREAS, Jim Ranney was a member of Phi Delta Kappa, the  
10 Sigma Zeta Science Honorary Society, the International Reading  
11 Association, the Illinois Reading Association, and the  
12 National Council of Teachers of English; he was a past member  
13 of the Illinois Association of Supervision & Development and  
14 the Association for Supervision and Curriculum Development; he  
15 was a longtime member of the University United Methodist  
16 Church in Peoria; and

17 WHEREAS, Jim Ranney loved going to different places; he  
18 enjoyed attending the Indy 500, which he did for over 40 years,  
19 Bradley basketball games, Bears games, and Cubs game; he also  
20 enjoyed golfing with his buddies and spending time with his  
21 friends; and

22 WHEREAS, Jim Ranney was preceded in death by his daughter,

1 Christine; and

2 WHEREAS, Jim Ranney is survived by his wife of 58 years,  
3 Sandra; his son, James (Mindi) Ranney; his grandchildren,  
4 Zachary, Joshua, Nicole, Paige, and James Max; and his  
5 brother, Bill (Peggy) Ranney; therefore, be it

6 RESOLVED, BY THE SENATE OF THE ONE HUNDRED SECOND GENERAL  
7 ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, that we mourn the passing of  
8 James L. "Jim" Ranney and extend our sincere condolences to  
9 his family, friends, and all who knew and loved him; and be it  
10 further

11 RESOLVED, That a suitable copy of this resolution be  
12 presented to the family of Jim Ranney as an expression of our  
13 deepest sympathy.