



HR0901

LRB103 42653 MST 75886 r

1

HOUSE RESOLUTION

2 WHEREAS, The members of the Illinois House of
3 Representatives are saddened to learn of the death of Nemer
4 Ziyad, who passed away on September 13, 2024, his 61st
5 birthday; and

6 WHEREAS, Nemer Ziyad, the eldest son of Ahmad Ziyad,
7 founded Ziyad Brothers Importing with his brother, Ibrahim,
8 and served as the chief executive officer and principal for
9 the company; and

10 WHEREAS, Ziyad Brothers Importing was founded as a small
11 retail food importing business on the southwest side of
12 Chicago in 1966 but grew into one of the nation's largest
13 distributors of authentic Mediterranean and Middle Eastern
14 food products and ingredients; and

15 WHEREAS, Ziyad Brothers Importing employs more than 80
16 people in a 150,000 sq. ft. warehouse and office center
17 located in Cicero, where it distributes more than 1,000 food
18 and food-related products to more than 4,000 ethnic grocery
19 stores and more than 18,000 mainstream retail stores and
20 outlets in 48 states and six countries; and

21 WHEREAS, Nemer Ziyad, working with his brothers, Nassem

1 and Nazmy, and his cousin, Nezar, was instrumental in
2 directing the national growth of the company, bringing
3 Mediterranean and Middle East food essentials into the homes
4 of every family in America and negotiating the company's
5 purchase by Peak Rock Capitol in 2022; and

6 WHEREAS, Nemer Ziyad established his reputation not only
7 as a food industry professional and expert but also as an Arab
8 American of Palestinian heritage and served the public in many
9 capacities, including as a former founding board member of the
10 United Trust Bank in Bridgeview and as a supporter of the
11 Palestine Children's Relief Fund (PCRF); and

12 WHEREAS, Nemer Ziyad served on the board of the Chicago
13 International Sister Cities (Amman-Chicago) and was a member
14 of the exclusive International Order of Chefs, Les Aims
15 Escoffier Society; and

16 WHEREAS, Nemer Ziyad was the recipient of numerous awards,
17 including Man of the Year by the Arab American Democratic
18 Club; and

19 WHEREAS, Nemer Ziyad's achievements in business and in
20 strengthening the pride in his Arab American community have
21 been unprecedented; therefore, be it

1 RESOLVED, BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE
2 HUNDRED THIRD GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, that
3 we mourn the passing of Nemer Ziyad and extend our sincere
4 condolences to his family, friends, and all who knew and loved
5 him; and be it further

6 RESOLVED, That a suitable copy of this resolution be
7 presented to Nemer Ziyad's wife, Kathryn, and his daughters,
8 Marissa and Sahra, as an expression of our deepest sympathy.