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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 John D. Cooney Sr., who passed away on February 23, 2023; and

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WHEREAS, John Cooney was born on August 8, 1954; he was raised in Oak Park and graduated from Fenwick High School; he earned his Bachelor of Arts from Georgetown University in 1976 and his Juris Doctor from Loyola University School of Law in 1979; and

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WHEREAS, John Cooney initially worked as a prosecutor with the Cook County State's Attorney's Office in the Felony Trial Division from 1979 until 1985; he then joined his father, Robert Cooney Sr., as a trial lawyer at the firm known today as Cooney & Conway, LLP in Chicago; he became an eminent trial attorney at the firm, leading one of the country's premier legal practices specializing in representing individuals who have been injured as a result of asbestos-related disease; he served as chairman in more asbestos bankruptcy proceedings than any other attorney in the United States and obtained more than \$20 billion in awards for victims of mesothelioma as well as other clients in personal injury and wrongful death cases; and

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1 WHEREAS, John Cooney's commitment and tireless advocacy on
2 behalf of clients seeking justice helped shape how asbestos
3 victims are treated by the legal system, impacting the lives
4 of thousands of people around the world; he was known as an
5 absolute force in Illinois and across the country, not only in
6 representing his own clients but also in advocating for
7 victims' rights; he was universally recognized by attorneys
8 and judges around the country as a man of integrity, decency,
9 and honor; and

10 WHEREAS, John Cooney was a regular visitor to the General
11 Assembly in Springfield, advocating on behalf of injured
12 people across Illinois; his mere presence at the witness table
13 inspired confidence in his allies and consternation among his
14 opponents; and

15 WHEREAS, John Cooney was involved in several
16 organizations; he was a member of the University of Chicago
17 Medical Center's Board of Trustees, the founding chairman of
18 the American Bar Association Mass Torts Litigation Committee,
19 and an active member of the Illinois Trial Lawyers
20 Association, where he served as president from 2014 to 2015;
21 he additionally gave his time and resources generously to a
22 number of institutions and scores of other charitable causes;
23 and

1 WHEREAS, John Cooney was known for his larger-than-life
2 personality, his intellect, his wit, his humor, and his love
3 of life; and

4 WHEREAS, John Cooney was the husband of Barbara Cooney for
5 35 years; the father of Elizabeth (Matt Caraher), Devitt
6 (Bess), and Bobby (Hutton); the brother of Bob (Loretta) and
7 the late Nora (Richard) Cooney Marra; the son of the late
8 Robert and Noreen Cooney; the uncle and cousin of many; and the
9 friend of countless individuals; therefore, be it

10 RESOLVED, BY THE SENATE OF THE ONE HUNDRED THIRD GENERAL
11 ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, that we mourn the passing of
12 John D. Cooney Sr. and extend our sincere condolences to his
13 family, friends, and all who knew and loved him; and be it
14 further

15 RESOLVED, That a suitable copy of this resolution be
16 presented to the family of John Cooney as an expression of our
17 deepest sympathy.