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1 SENATE RESOLUTION

2 WHEREAS, The members of the Illinois Senate wish to
3 congratulate Tom Skilling on his retirement from WGN-TV on
4 February 28, 2024, after 45 years of service; and

5 WHEREAS, Tom Skilling's first job was at the radio station
6 WKKD in Aurora when he was 14; and

7 WHEREAS, Tom Skilling worked for several TV and radio
8 shows in Illinois and Wisconsin before being hired as a
9 meteorologist for WGN in 1978; and

10 WHEREAS, Tom Skilling animated his own weather maps early
11 in his broadcasting career and subsequently helped bring
12 animated satellite imagery and radar on air to WGN; and

13 WHEREAS, Tom Skilling was a WGN meteorologist during many
14 weather-related events in Chicago history, including the
15 brutal winters of the 1980s, the Plainfield tornado on August
16 28, 1990, the heat wave in 1995, and the Groundhog's Day
17 blizzard of 2011; and

18 WHEREAS, Tom Skilling has reported firsthand on the
19 weather in Alaska, Las Vegas, and on an ice-breaking ship in
20 the middle of Lake Huron and was famously chased by a tornado

1 in Oklahoma in 2010; and

2 WHEREAS, Tom Skilling has won multiple Emmys from the
3 Chicago/Midwest chapter of the National Academy Television
4 Arts & Science; he was honored with the Pride of Edgewater
5 award from the Edgewater Chamber of Commerce in 2017 and the
6 Broadcast Pioneer Award from the Illinois Broadcasters
7 Association in 2018; U.S. Representatives Bill Foster and Mike
8 Quigley submitted a statement to the official Congressional
9 Record that honors his four-and-a-half decades as a
10 meteorologist on November 1, 2023; and

11 WHEREAS, Tom Skilling funds a scholarship to assist a
12 local college student each year; and

13 WHEREAS, Tom Skilling has hosted severe weather seminars
14 at Fermilab near suburban Batavia for nearly four decades; and

15 WHEREAS, In recent years, Tom Skilling has studied the
16 science of climate change, leading talks and participating in
17 conferences on the subject across Chicago and the United
18 States; and

19 WHEREAS, As the longtime chief meteorologist for WGN-TV,
20 Tom Skilling has been one of the most trusted figures on
21 television screens throughout the Chicago area for decades,

1 expertly and calmly explaining the region's often
2 unpredictable weather situations for generations of viewers;
3 and

4 WHEREAS, Tom Skilling enjoys going to the beach and Loyola
5 University's lakefront campus and being a regular at Lickity
6 Split Frozen Custard, the Indie Cafe, and the Waterfront Cafe;
7 therefore, be it

8 RESOLVED, BY THE SENATE OF THE ONE HUNDRED THIRD GENERAL
9 ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, that we congratulate Tom
10 Skilling on his retirement from WGN-TV on February 28, 2024;
11 and be it further

12 RESOLVED, That a suitable copy of this resolution be
13 presented to Tom Skilling as a symbol of our esteem and
14 respect.