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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 former Illinois Senate President James "Pate" Philip, who passed away on November 21, 2023; and

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WHEREAS, Sen. Philip was the longest-serving Republican Senate President in State history, having been first elected to the position in 1993 and serving until 2003; and

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WHEREAS, Prior to his political career, Sen. Philip proudly served his country in the United States Marine Corps during the Korean War from 1951 to 1953, where he learned the importance and value of planning his work and working his plan; and

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WHEREAS, Sen. Philip was employed as the district sales manager for Pepperidge Farm Bakeries for 38 years; and

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WHEREAS, Sen. Philip began his political career as Auditor of York Township in 1965; he also served as chairman of the DuPage County Republicans, building a grassroots political network that would become pivotal to Republican electoral victories up and down the ticket; and

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WHEREAS, Sen. Philip was elected to the Illinois House of

1 Representatives in 1966, where he served until he was elected
2 to the Illinois Senate in 1974; and

3 WHEREAS, During his tenure as President of the Illinois
4 Senate, Sen. Philip achieved many significant accomplishments,
5 including maintaining responsible budgeting, increasing
6 funding for education, introducing property tax caps, holding
7 the line on taxes, improving the State's job climate, and
8 supporting anti-crime laws; he was noted for his work in
9 increasing public access to the legislative process,
10 implementing governmental ethics reforms, and streamlining
11 government; and

12 WHEREAS, Sen. Philip's tenure also saw a modernization of
13 the chamber, including the use of computers on the Senate
14 floor for the first time; and

15 WHEREAS, Sen. Philip was known for his straightforward
16 approach, which earned him the respect of legislators on both
17 sides of the aisle, and he will be remembered for his
18 often-colorful quips in the media and on the Senate floor; and

19 WHEREAS, Sen. Philip was proud to be a lifelong resident
20 of DuPage County and was active in numerous civic and
21 charitable organizations; and

1 WHEREAS, Sen. Philip was a life member of the Scottish
2 Rite Valley of Chicago, and he was given the honor of 33rd
3 Degree Mason; he was also a life member of The Most Worshipful
4 Grand Lodge of A.F. & A.M. of the State of Illinois Lodge #941,
5 the Knights Templar, and the DuPage Shrine Club; and

6 WHEREAS, Sen. Philip was honored to serve on the board of
7 Shriners Hospitals for Children and strongly supported its
8 mission of caring for kids; and

9 WHEREAS, Sen. Philip is survived by his loving wife of 46
10 years, Nancy Louise; his stepsons, Randy and Kevin; his
11 daughter, Cindi; his son, Jase; his sister, Zilpha; his
12 grandchildren, Zachary Ramey, Alexandra Ramey, Christopher
13 Ramey, Kiara Wallace, Darcy Wallace, Jayelyn Philip, and James
14 Philip; his step-grandsons, Dakota Soria and Logan Soria; and
15 his great-granddaughter, Alice Quinn Ramey; therefore, be it

16 RESOLVED, BY THE SENATE OF THE ONE HUNDRED THIRD GENERAL
17 ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, that we mourn the passing of
18 former Illinois Senate President James "Pate" Philip and
19 extend our sincere condolences to his family, friends,
20 colleagues, and all who knew and loved him; and be it further

21 RESOLVED, That a suitable copy of this resolution be
22 presented to the family of Sen. Philip as an expression of our

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1 deepest sympathy.