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SENATE RESOLUTION

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WHEREAS, The members of the Senate of the State of Illinois learned with great sadness of the death of their former colleague, Richard A. Walsh, of River Forest on Tuesday, January 25, 2005; and

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WHEREAS, Senator Walsh was born in Chicago; he graduated from Fenwick High School in Oak Park in 1948 and received an undergraduate business degree from Loyola University in 1952; he received his law degree from Loyola in 1954 and went on to form what is now the Chicago law firm of McCracken, Walsh, and deLaVan; and

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WHEREAS, He spent his life as a lawyer, a suburban Chicago father of six, and a State legislator, roles that friends and family say he embraced with equal dedication; he served in the Illinois House until 1974, including a stint as chairman of the Appropriations Committee; he was then elected to the Illinois Senate in 1976 and served until 1982; and

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WHEREAS, Along with his political and legal careers, Mr. Walsh served in the United States Navy in the late 1950s; and

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WHEREAS, Mr. Walsh was often the first one in and the last to leave his Chicago law firm, yet he always put his family first and was there for ball games and weekend getaways; in the legislature, he was known for carefully reading the hundreds of bills that came up each year, never content to have staffers read them for him; and

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WHEREAS, He was a passionate Republican and walked through political circles with an easy manner; he had a winning combination of strong principles and an equally strong sense of humor; he often joked about his sizable golf handicap and the equity it brought to the game; and

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1           WHEREAS, Mr. Walsh came from a politically involved family;  
2 his uncle, Arthur Bidwill, was a longtime State senator and  
3 Senate president; Mr. Walsh's brother, William Walsh, began  
4 serving in the Illinois House in 1960, and when Mr. Walsh first  
5 was elected in 1962, they became the only brothers to serve in  
6 the legislature at the same time; his nephew, former Senator  
7 Tom Walsh, continued the family legacy as a member of the State  
8 Senate, where he served from 1995 to 2002; and

9           WHEREAS, In the summers, Mr. Walsh would take his family to  
10 Lake Geneva in Wisconsin, and spend afternoons on the pier with  
11 his kids; and

12           WHEREAS, The passing of Senator Richard A. Walsh has been  
13 deeply felt by many, especially his wife, Patricia; his sons,  
14 Richard Jr., Mark, Patrick, and Brian; his daughters, Katherine  
15 and Anne; his two brothers, John and Robert; and his eight  
16 grandchildren; therefore, be it

17           RESOLVED, BY THE SENATE OF THE NINETY-FOURTH GENERAL  
18 ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, that we mourn the passing of  
19 former Senator Richard A. Walsh, and we extend our deepest  
20 sympathy to his family, friends, and all who knew and loved  
21 him; and be it further

22           RESOLVED, That a suitable copy of this resolution be  
23 presented to his family as an expression of our sincere  
24 condolences.