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## SENATE RESOLUTION

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WHEREAS, The members of the Illinois Senate wish to express their sincere condolences to the family and friends of Monsignor John J. "Jack" Egan, who passed away on May 19, 2001; and

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WHEREAS, Monsignor Egan was a priest whose battles for social justice made him one of Chicago's most influential religious leaders; and

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WHEREAS, Monsignor Egan was born in New York to the late John and Mary Egan, but moved to Chicago early in life; he was raised in the Ravenswood neighborhood and attended DePaul University; he then studied for the priesthood at St. Mary of the Lake Seminary in Mundelein and was ordained in 1943; and

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WHEREAS, Monsignor Egan served the Roman Catholic Church for 58 years; he brought his ecumenical approach to Chicago's grittiest haunts and the nation's toughest social problems; and

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WHEREAS, After being ordained in 1943, Monsignor Egan worked three years as an assistant priest at St. Justin the Martyr in Chicago; in addition he began a ministry to the Young Christian Workers and the Christian Family Movement; and

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WHEREAS, From 1946 through 1959, Monsignor Egan was the first director of the Cana Conference of Chicago, a ministry to celebrate the sacrament of marriage and to serve the needs of Catholic married couples; in 1957 the Holy See named him monsignor; and

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WHEREAS, From 1958 through 1969, Monsignor Egan served as director of the Archdiocesan Office of Urban Affairs where he became a powerful voice in promoting subsidized housing as a way to fight urban segregation; he also became an outspoken

1 opponent of public housing; in 1965, he marched with the  
2 Reverend Martin Luther King Jr. in Selma, Alabama that later  
3 became a call for clergyman across the country to join the  
4 civil rights movement; and

5 WHEREAS, From 1970 through 1983, Monsignor Egan served as  
6 the special assistant to the president at the University of  
7 Notre Dame and ran its Institute for Pastoral and Social  
8 Ministry; and

9 WHEREAS, Monsignor Egan returned to Chicago in 1983 as  
10 the archdiocese's director of Human Relations and Ecumenism  
11 under Cardinal Joseph Bernardin; in 1987 he served as an  
12 assistant to the president for community affairs at DePaul  
13 University; DePaul University honored him by naming its urban  
14 think tank and community service organization after him,  
15 calling it the Egan Urban Center; and

16 WHEREAS, In 1993, thousands of well-wishers attended a  
17 celebration at Holy Name Cathedral in Chicago to mark the  
18 50th anniversary of Monsignor Egan's ordination into the  
19 priesthood; in addition, plumbers hosted a similar  
20 celebration at Plumber's Hall on the West Side; his life was  
21 also profiled in a "1991 book, "An Alley in Chicago: The  
22 Ministry of a City Priest"; and

23 WHEREAS, Among his many honors and six honorary  
24 doctorates, Monsignor Egan and his aide, Peggy Roach, were  
25 given honorary degrees by Lewis University in Romeoville; in  
26 addition he was presented with Saint Xavier University's top  
27 honor, a school where he served as a former advisory council  
28 member; and

29 WHEREAS, The passing of Monsignor John J. Egan will be  
30 deeply felt by all who knew and loved him, especially his  
31 sister, Kathleen Egan Martin; his nieces and nephews; his  
32 great-nieces and great-nephews; and his many friends and

1 acquaintances that he has met during his 58 years of service  
2 to the Roman Catholic Church; and

3 WHEREAS, Monsignor Egan served as a conscience not only  
4 to politicians and the people, but also to the Roman Catholic  
5 Church; he had the reputation of a man who had a way of  
6 challenging people on very serious moral issues without  
7 alienating them, thereby allowing change within the Church;  
8 therefore, be it

9 RESOLVED, BY THE SENATE OF THE NINETY-SECOND GENERAL  
10 ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, that we mourn, along with  
11 all who knew him, the death of Monsignor John J. Egan of  
12 Chicago, Illinois; and be it further

13 RESOLVED, That a suitable copy of this resolution be  
14 presented to the family of Monsignor John J. Egan with our  
15 sincere condolences.