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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 Thomas James "Tom" Broderick of Oak Park, who passed away on November 25, 2017 at the age of 65; and

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WHEREAS, Tom Broderick was born in Washington, D.C. on March 17, 1952; and

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WHEREAS, Tom Broderick spent many summers as a child in New York with his Uncle Byron, enjoying the museums and bookstores of Manhattan and the beach at Fire Island; as an adult, no trip to New York was complete without a visit to his favorite bookstore, Printed Matter; and

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WHEREAS, Tom Broderick was raised in a family that emphasized social justice, education, diversity, and a love of culture, all of which influenced him greatly during the course of his life; and

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WHEREAS, Tom Broderick developed a lifelong interest in politics as a young man; he was proud of the photograph of himself, aged 10, when his mother took him to hear Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. at the March on Washington; in the photo, Tom holds a sign that seemed to guide his life which read, "We Are Marching for Freedom, Ours and Yours"; and

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1 WHEREAS, Tom Broderick and a friend left the country after
2 high school in order to avoid being drafted into the Vietnam
3 War; they traveled extensively through Africa "with little more
4 than lint in their pockets"; and

5 WHEREAS, Tom Broderick also traveled to Mexico, living in
6 small villages with families and collecting art, embroideries,
7 and weavings, which were still on the walls of his apartment
8 many years later; and

9 WHEREAS, Tom Broderick's interest in photography drew him
10 to Columbia College Chicago in the 1970s, and later to the
11 School of the Art Institute of Chicago, where he created and
12 collected artist books; and

13 WHEREAS, Tom Broderick began his career in printing as a
14 "stripper", which he enjoyed telling people with a mischievous
15 grin, and stayed in printing for the rest of his work life; and

16 WHEREAS, Tom Broderick did not just talk about justice, he
17 showed up to support justice; whoever said that showing up was
18 80% of life had Tom in mind; he showed up for death row visits,
19 board meetings, fundraisers, informational gatherings, and
20 celebrations; and

1 WHEREAS, Tom Broderick worked tirelessly, creatively, and
2 joyfully on a wide range of progressive issues and causes; his
3 particular and strongest interests were the abolition of the
4 death penalty, working people's rights to organize and live
5 with dignity, and reproductive justice; and

6 WHEREAS, Tom Broderick's involvements in progressive
7 causes are almost too numerous to mention; he served on the
8 board of the Illinois Coalition Against the Death Penalty in
9 its final years before abolition in 2011; he supported striking
10 and low-wage workers during a 10-year strike at Chicago's
11 Congress Hotel; on the day he died, he escorted clients at a
12 downtown family planning clinic as a volunteer for the Illinois
13 Choice Action Team; and

14 WHEREAS, Tom Broderick helped organize the Oak Park
15 Coalition for Truth and Justice and the Democratic Socialists
16 of America multi-year campaign to get the Oak Park Village
17 Board to pass a living wage ordinance; the nine-year campaign
18 finally reached fruition in combination with the Fight for \$15
19 efforts when the village board voted not to opt out of Cook
20 County's Living Wage Ordinance in 2017; and

21 WHEREAS, Tom Broderick was frequently published in the
22 Wednesday Journal's "One View" and letters to the editor, as
23 well as in the Chicago Sun-Times; and

1 WHEREAS, Tom Broderick is remembered for his love of
2 cooking, his hours-long dinner parties, and his love of having
3 time around the table with good food, drink, friends, music and
4 conversation; he had a "free and energetic approach to life",
5 being known as irreverent, for speaking his truth and for
6 letting the good times roll; and

7 WHEREAS, Tom Broderick is survived by his son, Byron
8 Broderick, and his former wife, Diane Scott; therefore, be it

9 RESOLVED, BY THE SENATE OF THE ONE HUNDREDTH GENERAL
10 ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, that we mourn the passing of
11 Thomas James "Tom" Broderick, and extend our sincere
12 condolences to his family, friends, and all who knew and loved
13 him; and be it further

14 RESOLVED, That a suitable copy of this resolution be
15 presented to the family of Tom Broderick, as an expression of
16 our deepest sympathy.