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LRB101 11792 ALS 58568 r

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SENATE RESOLUTION

2 WHEREAS, The members of the Illinois Senate are saddened to
3 learn of the death of Joseph Michael "Joe" Bergen of
4 Brownsville, who passed away on November 24, 2018; and

5 WHEREAS, Joe Bergen was born to Judge Frances and Florence
6 Louise (Dunn) Bergen on November 26, 1961; and

7 WHEREAS, Joe Bergen joined the Communications and Research
8 Staff upon the recommendation of Senator Vince Demuzio in 1984;
9 until 2004, he was a member of the Democratic Caucus staff of
10 the Illinois Senate and served under the leadership of Senate
11 President Phil Rock and later Democratic Leader and President
12 of the Senate, Emil Jones Jr.; and

13 WHEREAS, In his 20 years of service in the Senate, Joe
14 Bergen mentored hundreds of young staffers who came to learn
15 that his lessons on life and work were true and honest
16 instructions on how to succeed in the high-pressure world of
17 state government administration, as well as life in general;
18 while he worked for the Senate Democratic Caucus, he was never
19 too busy to take time out of his day to help anyone in the
20 Capitol who was in need; he reminded all of those with whom he
21 associated that no one, regardless of their position in life,
22 was beyond the courtesy of being recognized and greeted in the

1 hallways of the Capitol or the streets of the city and asked
2 how they were doing that day; and

3 WHEREAS, Joe Bergen was the ultimate helper; he would
4 happily run an errand, offer a piece of furniture from his
5 vintage collection, or just pass on a kind word and smile; and

6 WHEREAS, When not at the Capitol, Joe Bergen was an amazing
7 carpenter and electrician; he built decks and tree houses that
8 housed his collections and light displays that, at times, lit
9 up his entire neighborhood; he enjoyed welcoming friends and
10 showing them his latest creations; he was a great lover of
11 music and had hundreds of albums and cassettes in his
12 collection, any of which he would give away to the first person
13 who asked about one of them; and

14 WHEREAS, During his time at the Capitol, Joe Bergen became
15 a fixture, one of those rare individuals whose impact and
16 influence will be remembered not just by those with whom he
17 worked but also by those who will hear of his life and lessons
18 for years to come; and

19 WHEREAS, Joe Bergen was preceded in death by his beloved
20 dog, Nick; and

21 WHEREAS, Joe Bergen is survived by his siblings, Mary

1 (Randy) Stoddard, Edward (Kathleen) Bergen, Thomas (Sue)
2 Bergen, and James Bergen; and his many nieces, nephews,
3 great-nieces, and great-nephews; therefore, be it

4 RESOLVED, BY THE SENATE OF THE ONE HUNDRED FIRST GENERAL
5 ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, that we mourn the passing of
6 Joseph Michael "Joe" Bergen and extend our sincere condolences
7 to his family, friends, and all who knew and loved him; and be
8 it further

9 RESOLVED, That a suitable copy of this resolution be
10 presented to the family of Joe Bergen as an expression of our
11 deepest sympathy.