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LRB104 14016 MST 27081 r

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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 Leonard "Ben" Toia of Arlington Heights, who passed away on April 5, 2025; and

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WHEREAS, Ben Toia was born in Chicago to Salvatore and Josephine (Monteleone) Toia; and

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WHEREAS, Ben Toia was the beloved husband for more than 70 years of Sue (Molinaro); the dear father of Leon (Dawn), Sam, and Jacquie (Brad Hokin); the loving grandfather of Leonard, Alex, Jordyn, and Lena; the cherished great-grandfather of three; the fond brother of Vince (Diane), the late Josephine, Jack, Sam (Anna May), Phil, Katherine "Dolly" Filippo, and Margie; the dear son-in-law of Leo and Leona Pianetto/Szemla; the dear brother-in-law of Paulette Linder and the late Marie Letsos; the uncle to many nieces and nephews; and friend to Duke, Major, Sassy, Cleo, Benji, Bernie, and others; and

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WHEREAS, Ben Toia was a member of the United States Marine Corps before working as a printer for Popular Mechanics magazine; his career in the hospitality industry began when he opened a bar and later opened everyone's favorite pizzeria, Leona's, a family business; and

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1 WHEREAS, Ben Toia was a businessman, employer, animal
2 lover, noted restaurateur, and family man; he was a
3 beautifully simple man and a gentle giant; his favorite saying
4 was "Life is peaks and valleys, enjoy the peaks because the
5 valleys are right around the corner."; therefore, be it

6 RESOLVED, BY THE SENATE OF THE ONE HUNDRED FOURTH GENERAL
7 ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, that we mourn the passing of
8 Leonard "Ben" Toia and extend our sincere condolences to his
9 family, friends, and all who knew and loved him; and be it
10 further

11 RESOLVED, That a suitable copy of this resolution be
12 presented to the family of Ben Toia as an expression of our
13 deepest sympathy.