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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 Ernest "Ernie" Pentek Jr. of Chicago, who passed away on April 4, 2025; and

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WHEREAS, Ernie Pentek was born in Chicago to Earnest Sr. and Ann Pentek on July 27, 1954; he grew up with a strong sense of duty and a heart for service; after graduating from high school, he served honorably with the United States Marine Corps; and

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WHEREAS, Ernie Pentek joined the Chicago Fire Department in 1980, where he served proudly for 33 years and responded to thousands of calls, saving lives and mentoring countless young friends along the way; he was known for his quick wit and for remaining calm under pressure in the toughest situations; and

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WHEREAS, Ernie Pentek found joy in simple pleasures in retirement; he never passed up a garage door job and loved visiting with the Piscateer's club, making sausage with his kids, and sharing stories over Hungarian Bacon Frys; and

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WHEREAS, Ernie Pentek's greatest pride and joy was his family; he planned every holiday party, attended every major life event, and passed on his values of hard work, honesty, and

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1 kindness to his grandchildren; he was deeply committed to his
2 faith, a devoted Christian, and a member of Ashburn Baptist
3 Church; he was especially proud of his sons and family members
4 who served with distinction with the Chicago Police and Fire
5 Departments; and

6 WHEREAS, Ernie Pentek is survived by his wife of 47 years,
7 Susan; his children, Ernest Pentek III, Christina (Dave)
8 Riedel, Sean (Kaeley) Pentek, Zachary (Angela) Pentek,
9 Nicholas (Amy) Pentek, Jeremiah (Deidre) Pentek, Rebecca
10 (Daniel Finn) Pentek, Emily (Michael) Moore, Lucas (Ruby)
11 Pentek, and Samuel (Caitlin) Pentek; his brothers, John (Jay)
12 and Bobby; his sisters, Katherine and Jan; 19 grandchildren;
13 his firehouse community; and his three dogs; therefore, be it

14 RESOLVED, BY THE SENATE OF THE ONE HUNDRED FOURTH GENERAL
15 ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, that we mourn the passing of
16 Ernest "Ernie" Pentek Jr. and extend our sincere condolences
17 to his family, friends, and all who knew and loved him; and be
18 it further

19 RESOLVED, That a suitable copy of this resolution be
20 presented to the family of Ernie Pentek as an expression of our
21 deepest sympathy.