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HOUSE RESOLUTION

2           WHEREAS, The members of the Illinois House of  
3 Representatives are saddened to learn of the death of Charles  
4 D. "Chuck" Sweeny of Rockford, who passed away on May 20, 2019;  
5 and

6           WHEREAS, Chuck Sweeny was born in Rockford to Fay C. and  
7 Winifred M. Daniels Sweeny on October 26, 1948; he graduated  
8 from Auburn High School in 1966; he received a bachelor's  
9 degree from the University of Illinois at Chicago; he married  
10 Cherene Gourley in Rockford on March 3, 1973; and

11           WHEREAS, Chuck Sweeny began his career in journalism at the  
12 Rockford Register Star in 1984; he specialized in politics and  
13 also served as a reporter, columnist, political editor, and,  
14 most recently, senior editor; he was the face of the Register  
15 Star and gave the newspaper a personality it needed; his  
16 columns were must-reads, as his reporting and commentary were  
17 insightful, fair, and incredibly well sourced; he had the  
18 ability to inject humor into the often-tense public discourse;  
19 and

20           WHEREAS, Chuck Sweeny was known as "the dean of local  
21 political journalists" by Rockford Mayor Tom McNamara; he  
22 interviewed mayors, governors, and presidents and was an

1 exceptional chronicler of Rockford's history; for decades, he  
2 helped the public understand government, local history, and  
3 civic issues and emphasized the importance of the role of a  
4 free press in a thriving democracy; and

5 WHEREAS, Chuck Sweeny was voted best columnist in the  
6 Register Star's annual What Rocks reader poll; he was a  
7 sought-after speaker and a frequent debate moderator; he  
8 appeared as a commentator on local television, was a guest on  
9 National Public Radio, and was a regular user of Facebook; and

10 WHEREAS, Chuck Sweeny was also a musician; he played  
11 electric piano in several bands that performed around the  
12 region; he will be remembered as a lifetime journalist,  
13 political advocate, and Rockford historian and commentator;  
14 and

15 WHEREAS, Chuck Sweeny was preceded in death by his parents;  
16 and

17 WHEREAS, Chuck Sweeny is survived by his wife, Cherene; his  
18 son, James M.D. Sweeny; his daughter, Stephanie M.M. Sweeny;  
19 his sister, Mary (Robert) Douglas; his brothers-in-law,  
20 Michael Gourley and Patrick (Cheryl) Gourley; his nieces and  
21 nephews, William C. Douglas, Emily A. Douglas, Todd Gourley,  
22 and Lisa Sanders; and his many other extended family members;

1 therefore, be it

2 RESOLVED, BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE  
3 HUNDRED FIRST GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, that  
4 we mourn the passing of Charles D. "Chuck" Sweeny and extend  
5 our sincere condolences to his family, friends, and all who  
6 knew and loved him; and be it further

7 RESOLVED, That a suitable copy of this resolution be  
8 presented to the family of Chuck Sweeny as an expression of our  
9 deepest sympathy.