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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 Lt. Col. James "Jim" Joseph Gende, USMC Ret., who passed away on December 13, 2019; and

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WHEREAS, Jim Gende was born in Chicago to Eva (Bawiec) and Joseph Francis Gende; he enlisted in the U.S. Marine Corps in 1951 and was commissioned at the age of 18 as a First Lieutenant; he served in the Korean War and joined the USMC Reserve, serving for a time as commanding officer of the local Reserve; and

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WHEREAS, Jim Gende attended the University of Illinois for his undergraduate studies and then earned his Juris Doctor in 1962 from the University of Illinois School of Law; he married Susan B. Rypstat in 1962; and

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WHEREAS, Jim Gende practiced law for 35 years and founded his own firm; he helped create the Hungry Hobo and was one of the founders and owners of SnowStar, the only ski area in the Quad Cities; and

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WHEREAS, Jim Gende was committed to helping others in his community; he served on numerous boards, including for the local Epilepsy foundation, the Rock Island County Council of

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1 Addictions, Legal Aid in the Quad Cities, Marriage and Family  
2 Counseling, and the Boys and Girls Clubs of Mississippi Valley;  
3 he also served as the attorney for the St. Anthony's Nursing &  
4 Rehabilitation Center and Summit Ridge; and

5 WHEREAS, Jim Gende was a lifelong member the Democratic  
6 Party and ran for U.S. Congress in 1973; and

7 WHEREAS, Jim Gende was a member of the American Legion and  
8 the Knights of Columbus; and

9 WHEREAS, Jim Gende was an avid fan of the Chicago Bears and  
10 the Fighting Illini; he loved the Mississippi River and spent  
11 many happy hours boating in its muddy waters; he and Sue lived  
12 on their second boat, De Novo, during the winters for two  
13 decades; they traveled all over the world with family and  
14 friends; and

15 WHEREAS, Jim Gende is survived by his wife of 57 years, the  
16 Honorable Susan B. Gende; his children, Dr. Sarah Gende (Bob  
17 Castle), James Gende, Gretchen Gende (Steve Willey), and Dr.  
18 Amy (John) Piperato; and his grandchildren, Mason, Nolan,  
19 Giana, Lucien, Sian, Caden, John Jr., Alexa, and Vincent;  
20 therefore, be it

21 RESOLVED, BY THE SENATE OF THE ONE HUNDRED FIRST GENERAL

1 ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, that we mourn the passing of  
2 Lt. Col. James "Jim" Joseph Gende, USMC Ret. and extend our  
3 sincere condolences to his family, friends, and all who knew  
4 and loved him; and be it further

5       RESOLVED, That a suitable copy of this resolution be  
6 presented to the family of Jim Gende as an expression of our  
7 deepest sympathy.