



SR1568

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SENATE RESOLUTION

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WHEREAS, The members of the Illinois Senate are saddened to hear of the death of Zachary "Zac" Jacob Plantz, a Frankfort native and a lifelong Chicago loyalist, who passed away on November 26, 2020 at the age of 27; and

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WHEREAS, Zac Plantz was born to Ronald and Laura (Zoberis) Plantz in Oak Lawn on March 18, 1993; he was an early arrival weighing 11 pounds and 6 ounces; a chubby, happy baby, he grew into a cute and endearing little boy who held a record for ring bearer appearances; he spent his childhood roaming Butternut Circle, winning football championships for the Frankfort Falcons, and playing king of the hill in his swimming pool with his three siblings Tyler, Logan, and Abby; and

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WHEREAS, On the football field, Zac Plantz was an intense competitor and leader who played alongside his big brother Tyler for most of his career; he and his brother worked as leaders as only brothers could; he was a beloved member of Providence Catholic High School's Class of 2011 and remained a faithful and dedicated alumnus and PCHS football fan all his life; and

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WHEREAS, Matriculating at his family's alma mater, the University of Notre Dame, Zac Plantz's childhood affection for

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1 the Fighting Irish flourished into a lifelong love affair;
2 there, his athletic prowess found a new home on the rugby
3 pitch, and he found a beloved new family in the Notre Dame
4 Rugby Club; known by his teammates for being as strong as "an
5 ox in the scrum," he was a stalwart defender who made his
6 tackles count and left nothing on the field; the team left its
7 mark on his heart, and its crest was permanently inked on his
8 upper right thigh; and

9 WHEREAS, Zac Plantz's happiest years included those four at
10 Notre Dame; he discovered new loves that sustained and shaped
11 the rest of his life, including a Notre Dame rugby brotherhood,
12 a family in the men of Morrissey Manor/Meat Suite, a stomping
13 ground known as Finnis, and a girl named Kathleen; and

14 WHEREAS, Zac Plantz graduated from Notre Dame's Mendoza
15 College of Business in 2015 with a degree in IT Management; he
16 took his first job as a technology consultant at Protiviti in
17 downtown Chicago, where he also became co-founder, captain, and
18 unofficial social chair of the Kraken Rugby Football Club; and

19 WHEREAS, Zac Plantz enjoyed having a competitive job in his
20 favorite city in the world, having only a short drive east to
21 South Bend to see his brothers Tyler (Tuna) and Logan (Nagol)
22 in his favorite college football stadium, having an even
23 shorter drive south home to Frankfort where he could watch a

1 Bears game at Jameson's with his dad, grabbing lunch on
2 Francesca's patio with his mom, and reliving his Providence
3 glory days through his baby sister Abby's (Frabbers) major
4 miles; and

5 WHEREAS, Zac Plantz relished Chicago summer nights in
6 Chicago on the Rose Angelis patio with his girlfriend and
7 partner in crime, affectionately called "Kow"; the couple
8 ordered bottles of wine they couldn't afford and every entree
9 on the menu as appetizers; and

10 WHEREAS, Zac Plantz's journey into adulthood came with a
11 new sense of purpose; at the age of 25, he left a successful
12 consulting career to pursue his true passion of public service;
13 his first foray into politics was a campaign consulting job for
14 Jerry Joyce for mayor of Chicago, and he took great pride in
15 the campaign and considered it the most rewarding pursuit of
16 his career; it sparked a promising new career in politics, or
17 as he called it, "sports for grown ups"; and

18 WHEREAS, Zac Plantz was a smart, adept consultant, and his
19 earnestness, dynamism, and competitive spirit made him an asset
20 to any political campaign; most recently, he served as a
21 campaign manager and senior policy adviser for Congressman Dan
22 Lipinski (IL-03); he was also planning to attend law school
23 next year; he was a naturally gifted advocate with unshakable

1 conviction and immeasurable potential; his death is a
2 tremendous loss for a legal community that never got to meet
3 him; and

4 WHEREAS, Zac Plantz's essence was revealed in his no frills
5 wardrobe, comprised of camouflage sweatpants, a ND Hawaiian
6 shirt, and an endless supply of bucket hats, as well as the
7 wooden Kairos cross he often donned beneath the surface;
8 handsome, charming, and a rascal at heart, he had a dapper
9 smile, a twinkle in his eye, and the kind of genetic sparkle
10 that made him immune to reproach; he was also a man of strong
11 faith and conviction with a few hidden soft spots; he read a
12 daily devotional every morning before work; he had tears in his
13 eyes when the Cubs won the World Series; he poured himself into
14 the things he cared about with his whole heart; and

15 WHEREAS, Zac Plantz was fun to his core; a well known "ball
16 of energy," he was a staple to every good shenanigan, a couch
17 buddy always in popular demand, and a staunch advocate for
18 celebrating mediocrity; his heyday was the prolific Plantz
19 Family tailgate that serves as a precursor to both football
20 games and graduations alike; throughout his playful antics, he
21 always held had a deep concern for others; and

22 WHEREAS, Zac Plantz left this earth with a dirty mustache
23 that helped him single-handedly raise over \$85,000 and counting

1 for the Movember Foundation, an organization dedicated to
2 improving men's physical and mental health; he was a shepherd
3 of sorts for every odd-man-out and was known to bridge the gap
4 between old-timers and newcomers; and

5 WHEREAS, Zac Plantz had a knack for making old pals out of
6 strangers and anyone who spent five minutes with him knew why;
7 he was engaging, gregarious, and charismatic; he was a
8 fantastic cheerleader; though he will be remembered by many for
9 his rallying cries to "late-night," those who knew him best
10 will remember him for the sensitivity he displayed while
11 listening, the secrets he kept, and the vivid stories he told
12 during those after hours bull sessions; while his journey on
13 Earth might be over, his legacy will live in the advice he
14 gave, the stories he told, and the people he brought together;
15 and

16 WHEREAS, Zac Plantz loved traditions; he loved to sing the
17 Notre Dame Alma Mater in the stadium after football games, to
18 dress up as Santa on Christmas Eve in Grandma Plantz's
19 basement, and to drop everything for opening day at Wrigley
20 Field and eat as many hot dogs as he could stomach, always
21 keeping count; he was stubbornly committed to his childhood
22 delights, including venerating Elvis, cherishing birthdays,
23 and adhering to the same McDonald's regimen his entire life
24 consisting of two McDoubles and an Oreo McFlurry; a little

1 superstitious at heart, he was always involved in the action of
2 Notre Dame and Chicago sports and carried his gambling mantra
3 of PVO, positive vibes only, into all aspects of his life; he
4 would never sweat the small stuff and loved to remind himself
5 and others to relax and live in the moment; and

6 WHEREAS, At home, Zac Plantz was considered the energy of
7 the family; he added personality, punch, and, most importantly,
8 a plan to every family get together; he constantly doted on his
9 Grandpa Wally and Grandma Erna and was a jack-of-all-trades in
10 their eyes; he was the family ghost-writer, in-house expert on
11 all things related to technology, co-captain and skipper of his
12 brother Logan's boat, and an everyday Mr. Fix It; and

13 WHEREAS, Zac Plantz was many things, including a proud son,
14 a loyal friend, a talented athlete, a gifted student, a bright
15 consultant, a faithful Catholic, a devoted Irish, and a Bears,
16 Cubs, and Blackhawks fan; but above all, his starring role on
17 this earth was as a brother; he was exceptionally proud of his
18 three siblings, and his life was the most precious gift to
19 them; their loss is shared by an army of friends and loved ones
20 who will painfully miss him as their own brother; and

21 WHEREAS, Zac Plantz was as generous with his brotherly love
22 as he was with his good deeds; there was no destination too far
23 for him to drive and no repair too tedious for him to fix; to

1 know him well was to always have him in your corner; he was
2 fiercely loyal, and he loved with depth and devotion; his
3 family and his friends could always depend on him and still do;
4 and

5 WHEREAS, Zac Plantz's last day of life was spent in his
6 happy place, which was on a boat with his family in Sanibel
7 Island, Florida; at the family's home away from home, he spent
8 his last hours with old friends; but his exit from Earth was
9 unfitting and unlike him; it was an early and premature
10 departure from a party that still had much more in store, and,
11 most uncharacteristically, he left behind the people that he
12 loved the most; and

13 WHEREAS, Zac Plantz was preceded in death by his paternal
14 grandmother, Lorraine Plantz; his cousin, Kyle Plantz; and his
15 family dog, Domer; and

16 WHEREAS, Zac Plantz is survived by his parents; his
17 siblings, Tyler (Jay), Logan (Buzz & Mowgli), and Abby; his
18 maternal grandparents, Walter and Erna Jean Zoberis; his
19 longtime girlfriend, Kathleen Hough; his numerous aunts and
20 uncles; his cousins; and his many dear friends; therefore, be
21 it

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

1 ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, that we mourn the passing of
2 Zachary "Zac" Plantz and extend our sincere condolences to his
3 family, friends, and all who knew and loved him; and be it
4 further

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