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HOUSE RESOLUTION

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WHEREAS, The members of the Illinois House of Representatives are saddened to learn of the death of Richard Henry "Rich" Niemann Sr., who passed away on September 25, 2022; and

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WHEREAS, Rich Niemann was born to Ferdinand "Ferd" Sr. and Antoinette "Nette" (Heckenkamp) Niemann on February 18, 1931; during grade school, he would often accompany his father on visits to Niemann Brothers grocery stores and first began to work at Niemann Brothers Wholesale Grocers at age 12; he graduated from Notre Dame High School, and on October 6, 1951, he married Constance M. "Connie" Volm, whom he met in high school; he earned his bachelor's degree in marketing from Quincy College (Quincy University), where he played baseball for four years; and

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WHEREAS, Rich Niemann and Connie began to raise their family while he attended school and played college baseball; he also worked at Niemann Brothers Wholesale Grocers and was involved with his father and brother in developing and operating the Niemann Pony Farm, a Shetland pony business; after graduation, he managed Niemann Brothers Wholesale Grocers until 1969 when he became president of Niemann Foods, Inc., known at that time as Quincy Foods, Inc.; he also

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1 acquired an interest in other family businesses, including the
2 Mississippi Grill restaurant and the Sinclair gas station; and

3 WHEREAS, Starting in 1969, Rich Niemann began to focus his
4 attention on the Niemann Foods grocery stores and ceased the
5 grocery warehouse operation; as president in 1969, chairman
6 and CEO in 1994, later as just chairman, and, most recently, as
7 chairman emeritus of Niemann Foods, he, along with his sons,
8 Rich and Chris, helped develop Niemann Foods into a company
9 that now operates 130 retail stores in five states, including
10 Harvest Market, County Market, Save-A-Lot, Price Cutter and
11 ValuCheck grocery stores, Haymaker convenience stores, Pet
12 Supplies Plus, Ace Hardware, Perk Coffee Company, and Little
13 Caesars; and

14 WHEREAS, Rich Niemann was involved in numerous volunteer
15 and professional organizations and charitable activities; he
16 served as vice chairman of the Food Marketing Institute and on
17 its board of directors and as chairman of FMI FoodPAC; he also
18 served as chairman of the Illinois Food Retailers Association
19 and on the board of the Illinois Retail Merchants Association;
20 he served as finance chairman and was a member of the board of
21 trustees of Quincy University and the boards of
22 Culver-Stockton College and the Western Illinois University
23 Foundation; he also served as a grand knight of the Knights of
24 Columbus (Fourth Degree) and as president of the Quincy School

1 Board for Quincy Public Schools; he served many years on the
2 board of directors for both the State Street Bank and the
3 Quincy Chamber of Commerce; and

4 WHEREAS, Rich Niemann served as chairman of St. Mary
5 Hospital's board of trustees and as president of the St. Mary
6 Hospital Foundation; he was a founding member of the Great
7 River Economic Development Foundation and a founding member of
8 the Quincy Business and Technology Center; he served as
9 president of the Rotary Club of Quincy, where he was a
10 long-standing member; in 2006, he, along with his sons, Rich
11 and Chris, established the Niemann Foods Foundation,
12 benefiting children and their families throughout all the
13 markets served by Niemann Foods' retail stores; and

14 WHEREAS, Rich Niemann and his wife had been involved in
15 many charitable fundraising campaigns, including serving as
16 co-chairpersons of the Salvation Army Annual Fund Campaign and
17 of the United Way Annual Fund Drive, as well as the Annual
18 Sammy Fund Campaign; and

19 WHEREAS, Rich Niemann was recognized as the Illinois
20 Retail Merchants Association Retailer of the Year and the
21 Illinois Food Retailers Associations' Food Industry Leader of
22 the Year; he also received the National Grocers Association's
23 Spirit of America Award and the Food Marketing Institute's

1 Sidney R. Rabb Industry and Community Service Award; in
2 addition, he was inducted into the Quincy Area Chamber of
3 Commerce Business Hall of Fame and received its Parker S.
4 Gates Industry Leader Award; he also received Quincy
5 University's Alumnus of the Year Award and an honorary
6 doctoral degree from Quincy University; he and Connie received
7 the Quincy Notre Dame Band Award, the Quincy Catholic
8 Elementary Schools Foundation's Friend of Catholic Education
9 Award, and the Catholic Charities Distinguished Service Award;
10 and

11 WHEREAS, Rich Niemann was always mindful of giving back to
12 the community; he and Connie, in conjunction with the Niemann
13 Foods Foundation, partnered with Quincy University to
14 establish the Connie Niemann Center for Music in 2013; in
15 memory of their late daughter, they established the Connie
16 Niemann Wheeler Scholarship Fund at Quincy Notre Dame; and

17 WHEREAS, Rich Niemann was a great husband, father, and son
18 and emphasized his family's health, welfare, happiness, and
19 success; he enjoyed countless family dinners, which produced
20 many thought-provoking family discussions, as well as lots of
21 laughter; he took his family on summer Florida beach vacations
22 and winter Colorado ski trips; he enjoyed many family birthday
23 and holiday celebrations and loved spending time with his
24 family; he enjoyed world travel with grocer trade organization

1 members, as well as with his daughter and son-in-law, Peg and
2 Randy Guse; in his later years, you could find him teaching his
3 grandchildren how to ride a pony, celebrating their birthdays,
4 and having a treat with them after a swim in the family pool;
5 and

6 WHEREAS, Rich Niemann was preceded in death by his
7 daughter, Connie A. Niemann Wheeler; his parents; and his
8 siblings, Catherine Johnson, Mary Shankland, and Ferdinand
9 "Ferd" Niemann Jr.; and

10 WHEREAS, Rich Niemann is survived by his wife of over 70
11 years, Connie; his children, Linda M. (Steve) Ebbing, Richard
12 "Rich" (Susie) Niemann Jr., Daniel M. "Dan" (Angie) Niemann,
13 Ted M. (Suzanne) Niemann, Christopher J. "Chris" (Tammy)
14 Niemann, Margaret M. "Peggy" (Randy) Guse, and Amy E.
15 (Patrick) O'Keefe; his son-in-law, Paul (JoJene) Wheeler II;
16 his grandchildren, Dr. Jonathan (Dr. Devon) Ebbing, Abigail
17 (Matthew) Klarner, Matthew (Erin) Ebbing, Jessica (Brett)
18 Gerig, Paul (Dana) Wheeler III, Audrey (Andy) Hermsmeier, Rich
19 (Heather) Niemann III, Brad (Jenna) Niemann, Andrea (Brian)
20 Doellman, Doug (Erin) Niemann, Lisa (Adam) Hemmen, Ashley
21 (Robbie) Mayfield, Mark (Lauren) Niemann, Scott (Amanda)
22 Niemann, Genevieve (Max) Miller, Celeste Niemann (Joseph
23 Gobble), Angelica Niemann, Elizabeth (Chris) Dreste, Dr. Adam
24 (Cathy) Niemann, Eric Niemann, Caroline Niemann, Lindsay

1 Cardoso, Christopher Cardoso, and Alex Cardoso; and 39
2 great-grandchildren; therefore, be it

3 RESOLVED, BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE
4 HUNDRED SECOND GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, that
5 we mourn the passing of Richard Henry "Rich" Niemann Sr. and
6 extend our sincere condolences to his family, friends, and all
7 who knew and loved him; and be it further

8 RESOLVED, That a suitable copy of this resolution be
9 presented to the family of Rich Niemann as an expression of our
10 deepest sympathy.