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LRB102 16210 LAW 21589 r

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SENATE RESOLUTION

2 WHEREAS, The members of the Illinois Senate are saddened
3 to learn of the death of Anthony J. "Tony" Leone Jr. of
4 Springfield, who passed away on February 3, 2021; and

5 WHEREAS, Tony Leone Jr. was born in Springfield to Anthony
6 J. Leone Sr. and Evelyn Mussato Leone on September 1, 1950; he
7 graduated from Griffin High School; he earned his associate
8 degree from Springfield College and his bachelor's degree in
9 Economics from the University of Illinois at Springfield; and

10 WHEREAS, Tony Leone Jr. capped a long career in public
11 service as the chief clerk of the Illinois House of
12 Representatives between 1981 and 1983; he previously served as
13 the assistant clerk of the House between 1979 and 1980, a
14 position he held again between 1983 and 1992; he also held
15 various positions at the Illinois State Board of Elections and
16 the Springfield Election Commission; his first job was as the
17 chief clerk of the Sangamon County Election Office; and

18 WHEREAS, Following his service to the Illinois House, Tony
19 Leone Jr. served as director of the office's Index Department
20 under then-Secretary of State George H. Ryan Sr.; he led a
21 successful effort to reform and re-write the operational rules
22 of the Illinois Lobbyist Registration Act; he served as

1 chairman of the State Property Tax Appeal Board between 1990
2 and 1992, the Sangamon County Board of Review between 1985 and
3 1990, and the City of Springfield Rules and Regulations Review
4 Commission between 1995 and 1999; he also served as
5 vice-chairman of the 1992 Springfield Election Commission
6 Advisory Task Force on the Springfield Metropolitan &
7 Exposition Auditorium Authority, the Illinois Secretary of
8 State Ethics Commission, the Illinois State Museum Board, and
9 the Advisory Board of the Abraham Lincoln Presidential
10 Library; he served on the State commission that helped select
11 the Illinois commemorative quarter design in 2003; and

12 WHEREAS, Tony Leone Jr. was a nationally recognized
13 innovator in the use of electronic recordkeeping and reporting
14 for political campaign financial records and submissions; he
15 opened Illinois Campaign Reporting Systems in 1985 and served
16 as its president until 1999; he was also the principal of the
17 Springfield-based lobbying firm Leone & Associates for many
18 years; and

19 WHEREAS, Tony Leone Jr. was a well-respected figure in
20 Illinois Republican politics for 15 years; he was the
21 executive director of the Sangamon County Republican
22 Foundation; he served as the assistant treasurer of the
23 Illinois Republican State Party for eight years; he was also
24 the publisher of party newspaper The Republican for 15 years;

1 and

2 WHEREAS, Tony Leone Jr. lovingly restored the 125 year old
3 Pasfield House, located just west of the State Capitol
4 complex, which he opened as a bed and breakfast and a unique
5 event facility in 2002; over the years, he hosted a continuous
6 stream of dinners, receptions, fundraisers, and events for
7 numerous charitable causes, community award presentations,
8 book signings, and political campaigns; and

9 WHEREAS, Tony Leone Jr. was considered an expert on
10 Springfield's early history and a strong proponent of the
11 preservation of the city's historic sites; he served on the
12 Illinois State Capitol Historic Preservation Advisory Board;
13 he produced a photographic calendar that captured the beauty
14 of the Illinois State Capitol's architecture in 2010; he was
15 recognized by the General Assembly for his efforts to bring
16 revitalization to the neighborhood directly west of the
17 Illinois State Capitol complex in 2004; he also co-authored
18 the book Springfield Celebrated Horseshoe Sandwich; and

19 WHEREAS, Tony Leone Jr. was known for being jovial, full
20 of life, gracious, and thoughtful; he enjoyed dining with
21 friends, leading the table in old stories, self-deprecating
22 humor, and laughing; when traveling outside of Springfield, he
23 enjoyed visiting New Orleans, Louisiana and Charleston, South

1 Carolina; he was admired and loved by many; and

2 WHEREAS, Tony Leone Jr. was preceded in death by his
3 parents; and

4 WHEREAS, Tony Leone Jr. is survived by his significant
5 other, Catherine L. "Cathy" Cragoe; therefore, be it

6 RESOLVED, BY THE SENATE OF THE ONE HUNDRED SECOND GENERAL
7 ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, that we mourn the passing of
8 Anthony J. "Tony" Leone Jr. and extend our sincere condolences
9 to his family, friends, and all who knew and loved him; and be
10 it further

11 RESOLVED, That a suitable copy of this resolution be
12 presented to the family of Tony Leone Jr. as an expression of
13 our deepest sympathy.