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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 J. Michael "Mike" Zimmers, who passed away on October 5, 2022; and

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WHEREAS, Mike Zimmers was born in Chicago to William F. and Dorothy L. (Meeks) Zimmers on October 15, 1949; he graduated from Vienna High School in 1967 and earned his bachelor's degree at MacMurray College in 1971, where he was MVP and basketball captain his senior year; he married Nancy Severa at St. Wenceslaus Church in Cedar Rapids, Iowa on August 3, 1974; he received his master's degree in educational administration from the University of Illinois Springfield in 1991; and

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WHEREAS, Mike Zimmers began his teaching career as a behavior disorders middle school teacher in Park Ridge from 1974 to 1977; he moved to Springfield and worked as a behavior disorders middle school teacher for 13 years at Washington/Feitshans and Grant Middle Schools; he also coached girls' and boys' basketball and track; he began his administrative career as an assistant principal and athletic director at Washington and Jefferson Middle Schools for 15 years from 1990 to 2005; and

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1           WHEREAS, Mike Zimmers served as principal at Jefferson  
2 Middle School from 2005 to 2008, where he started the first  
3 gender-based education program in Springfield and introduced  
4 the nationally recognized Behavior Intervention Support Team  
5 (BIST), a program still used in Springfield schools; in 2009,  
6 he was recruited to work as a managing principal for three  
7 years; he retired in 2011; and

8           WHEREAS, Mike Zimmers ran for Springfield School Board  
9 #186 in 2013 and served over nine years as a member; he served  
10 for three years as board president and for three years as vice  
11 president; he was active on the Facilities Planning Committee  
12 and the city-wide Keep Kids in School effort every fall, to  
13 encourage immunizations; he also served with the One Sangamon  
14 Schools group, which organized a countywide school tax  
15 referendum that successfully passed a sales tax increase in  
16 2018, benefiting nine county school districts; he was  
17 particularly pleased to be concluding his service on the board  
18 as the first major renovation projects for Springfield schools  
19 from that referendum were being completed this year and so  
20 many more were underway; and

21           WHEREAS, Mike Zimmers' community activities include  
22 service as a classroom volunteer at Enos Elementary School, a  
23 reader for Real Men Read, and as a long-time member of the  
24 Interview Committee for the Physician Pipeline Preparatory

1 Program, a joint program with the SIU School of Medicine; he  
2 also volunteered for the United Way Education Vision Team, the  
3 Rotary International-Sunrise Chapter (past president), the  
4 Cherry Hills Homeowners Association (past president), the  
5 MacMurray College Alumni Board (past president), the Race  
6 Unity Council, and the Central Illinois Food Bank; and

7 WHEREAS, Mike Zimmers' professional affiliations include  
8 the Council for Exceptional Children, the Springfield  
9 Principals Association (past president), the Springfield  
10 Education Association, the Illinois Education Association, and  
11 the National Education Association; and

12 WHEREAS, Mike Zimmers was a long-time supporter of the  
13 Springfield Public Schools Foundation; he was in the process  
14 of establishing a new fund to support local Springfield school  
15 teachers, the Mike Zimmers Teacher Professional Development  
16 Fund, also known as the Mike Z Teacher Fund; and

17 WHEREAS, Mike Zimmers was presented with the Bob Goldman  
18 Friend of Education award by the Springfield Education  
19 Association in April of 2022; he loved visiting schools,  
20 listening to administrators, going into classrooms, talking  
21 with teachers, interacting with students, helping with parent  
22 requests, serving as head timer for track meets, cheering at  
23 the City Tournament, and many other activities; and

1           WHEREAS, Mike Zimmers was a lifelong Chicago Cubs fan; he  
2 enjoyed games at Wrigley Field and Sloan Park in Mesa,  
3 Arizona; he enjoyed working out at and supporting the  
4 Springfield Y, gardening and keeping his many bird feeders  
5 filled, and walking the family's Westie and his best buddy,  
6 Duffy; in 2014, he was named to MacMurray College's Athletic  
7 Hall of Fame, where he held the all-time single season rebound  
8 record; and

9           WHEREAS, Mike Zimmers was preceded in death by his parents  
10 and his brother, Eric S. Zimmers; and

11           WHEREAS, Mike Zimmers is survived by his wife, Nancy; his  
12 daughter, Layne A. Zimmers (Lori Smith); his cousins, David A.  
13 Allbritten, Trina Kozer, Michael Accomondo, and Lisa  
14 (Accomondo) Keller; his extended family, including Nancy's  
15 sisters and their spouses, Sidney and Larry Lutz, Sara and  
16 Duane Tack, and Stacy (the late Dave) Martin; and numerous  
17 nieces and nephews and their children; therefore, be it

18           RESOLVED, BY THE SENATE OF THE ONE HUNDRED SECOND GENERAL  
19 ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, that we mourn the passing of  
20 J. Michael "Mike" Zimmers and extend our sincere condolences  
21 to his family, friends, and all who knew and loved him; and be  
22 it further

1           RESOLVED, That a suitable copy of this resolution be  
2 presented to the family of Mike Zimmers as an expression of our  
3 deepest sympathy.