



SR0414

LRB103 33380 ECR 63192 r

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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 James C. "Jim" Steele of Des Plaines, who passed away on July 18, 2023; and

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WHEREAS, James Steele was born to John "Ray" Steele and Ruth Hellen (Elsner) Steele in Sandusky, Ohio on May 14, 1944; and

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WHEREAS, Jim Steele was a budding amateur magician in high school, later touring the country professionally at county and state fairs, carnivals, and the Clyde Beatty Cole Brothers Circus; he was also an illusionist, a mentalist, an escape artist, a sword swallower, and a fire eater; throughout the 1960s, he had many opportunities in show business, including small parts in movies and theater; he toured as part of a vaudeville troupe, and he was master of ceremonies in various nightclubs and variety shows in Ohio, New York City, New Jersey, and Chicago; and

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WHEREAS, In the 1970s, Jim Steele worked as a consultant, writer, and promoter of fine wines; he organized large wine tastings and auctions for various liquor stores in the Chicagoland area; he was a two-time winner of Geja's Annual International Wine Tasting Contest; and

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1           WHEREAS, Jim Steele was a dedicated grandfather who loved  
2 dining, traveling, and movie watching with his grandchildren;  
3 he will be most remembered for his fun, outgoing nature, and  
4 his open and accepting personality; and

5           WHEREAS, Jim Steele was the husband of the late Nanci  
6 Steele for 45 years; the stepfather to Barbra (Richard  
7 Spychalski) Versino and the late Robert Versino; the  
8 grandfather of Jonathan Spychalski and Emma Spychalski; the  
9 brother of Ruth Williams, Mary Sue Clifton, the late Jane  
10 Adelman, the late Carol Steele, Johnny Steele, and the late  
11 Rose Steele; and the uncle to many nieces and nephews;  
12 therefore, be it

13           RESOLVED, BY THE SENATE OF THE ONE HUNDRED THIRD GENERAL  
14 ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, that we mourn the passing of  
15 James C. "Jim" Steele and extend our sincere condolences to  
16 his family, friends, and all who knew and loved him; and be it  
17 further

18           RESOLVED, That a suitable copy of this resolution be  
19 presented to the family of Jim Steele as an expression of our  
20 deepest sympathy.