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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 Liautaud of Cary, who passed away on October 23, 2015; and

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WHEREAS, James Liautaud served in the United States Army in Korea; he earned his mechanical engineering degree from the University of Illinois; and

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WHEREAS, James Liautaud's interest in business began when he went to work selling books door to door for the Grolier's Encyclopedia company; in the late 1960s, he become a pioneer in a new technology called composite molding and accepted an offer to become President and co-owner of the Capsonic Group, a plastics and electronics manufacturing firm in Elgin that used this technology; over the next few years, he started the American Antenna Company, which made equipment for the then-trendy citizens band radio industry, and K40 Electronics, which manufactured a radar detector designed to give drivers a chance to break the speed limit without running afoul of the police; he received 80 United States patents and numerous design awards; and

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WHEREAS, Five summers in a row, James Liautaud and a club of fellow self-made millionaires would gather in Elgin with

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1 their high-performance Porsches, Ferraris, and Corvettes; they
2 would take off along I-90 at 100 mph or faster in a 400-mile
3 Cannonball Run-style car race all the way up to the Duluth,
4 Minnesota or Hayward, Wisconsin areas; to minimize traffic
5 tickets, the racers would even arrange for a helicopter to fly
6 overhead and warn where troopers were lying in wait; in 1986,
7 they finally arranged with authorities to run that year's
8 Cannonball Run on a legal basis - basing the competition not on
9 which CEO could drive the fastest but on which one could
10 achieve an average speed closest to 52 mph; and

11 WHEREAS, James Liautaud later sold his business interests
12 (which by then also included the Blue Rhino bottled-gas company
13 and 2 insurance firms) and joined the faculty of the University
14 of Illinois at Chicago; besides teaching there as a clinical
15 professor, he endowed and created what became the Liautaud
16 Business School; and

17 WHEREAS, James Liautaud loaned his son, Jimmy John, \$25,000
18 after graduating to start what would become Jimmy John's
19 Gourmet Sandwiches; in 2008, Jimmy John donated \$1 million to
20 Elgin Academy on the condition that it rename the academy's
21 high school as the "Liautaud-Lyons Upper School"; and

22 WHEREAS, James Liautaud is survived by his wife of 54
23 years, Gudaityte "Gina" Liautaud, and 4 children; therefore, be

1 it

2 RESOLVED, BY THE SENATE OF THE NINETY-NINTH GENERAL
3 ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, that we mourn the passing of
4 James Liautaud, and extend our sincere condolences to his
5 family, friends, and all who knew and loved him; and be it
6 further

7 RESOLVED, That a suitable copy of this resolution be
8 presented to the family of James Liautaud as an expression of
9 our deepest sympathy.