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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 Morris Littlefield "Morry" Hecker Jr. of Champaign, who passed away on March 3, 2019; and

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WHEREAS, Morry Hecker was born to Morris L. and Bess Stipes Hecker on July 20, 1922; he attended Champaign public schools and entered the University of Illinois in the fall of 1940; he enlisted in the U.S. Navy in 1942 and served in World War II; he attended Officer Training School at the University of Pennsylvania and Midshipman School at Northwestern University's Abbott Hall, Chicago Campus; he tested Higgins Boats on Lake Ponchartrain in New Orleans while awaiting deployment on a Landing Ship Tank (LST); he served in the Pacific theater and experienced a number of enemy bombings; and

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WHEREAS, After the war, Morry Hecker finished his education at the University of Illinois and graduated from Harvard University's Business School in 1948 with a Master of Business Administration; he returned to Champaign to work with his cousin at Stipes Publishing, which is still operating today; and

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WHEREAS, Morry Hecker married Martha Zearing in 1950; and

1 WHEREAS, Morry Hecker was part of numerous church, civic,
2 and community organizations; his board of director positions
3 included 1st United Methodist Church of Champaign, the
4 Champaign Rotary, the Champaign Public Library, the Champaign
5 Chamber of Commerce, and The Salvation Army; he was active in
6 the alumni organization for his college fraternity, Delta Tau
7 Delta; he was also a member of the WILL-TV Citizen Advisory
8 Board, the Krannert Marquee Council, the U of I President's
9 Club, and the Carle Foundation; and

10 WHEREAS, Morry Hecker was known for his quick wit, humor,
11 and sarcasm; he enjoyed traveling with Martha and his family to
12 the shores of Michigan, the rest of the United States, the Holy
13 Lands, Western and Eastern Europe, South America, Africa, the
14 Greek Isles, Turkey, Great Britain, and other locations; in the
15 summer of 1948, he visited his childhood friend, Bob Simon, in
16 France, where Bob was a foreign correspondent for Time
17 Magazine; and

18 WHEREAS, In 2012, Morry Hecker and his children immensely
19 enjoyed an Honor Flight to Washington, D.C. with other central
20 Illinois veterans; and

21 WHEREAS, Morry Hecker's granddaughter, Grace, lived with
22 him for four years and was often seen driving him to
23 appointments, the grocery store, and out to dinner, which was a

1 great source of social activity in his latter years; and

2 WHEREAS, Morry Hecker enjoyed his coffee circle in downtown
3 Champaign, Rotary lunches, fishing trips with his sons and
4 grandsons, Krannert Performing Arts Center productions, word
5 games, puzzles, bridge, and watching Jeopardy and The Golden
6 Girls; he was an avid fan of the University of Illinois
7 football and basketball teams; and

8 WHEREAS, Morry Hecker was preceded in death by his wife of
9 almost 57 years, Martha; his parents; and his siblings, John,
10 Helen, and James; and

11 WHEREAS, Morry Hecker is survived by his children and their
12 families, John and Barbara Hecker and their children, Meredith
13 Garreau (Scott) and Joseph, and Mary and Terry MacRae and their
14 children, Grace and Camille; therefore, be it

15 RESOLVED, BY THE SENATE OF THE ONE HUNDRED FIRST GENERAL
16 ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, that we mourn the passing of
17 Morris Littlefield "Morry" Hecker Jr. and extend our sincere
18 condolences to his family, friends, and all who knew and loved
19 him; and be it further

20 RESOLVED, That a suitable copy of this resolution be
21 presented to the family of Morry Hecker as an expression of our

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1 deepest sympathy.