



SR0335

LRB101 12082 MST 59601 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 Roger Douglas Grace of Urbana, who passed away on April 3, 2019; and

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WHEREAS, Roger Grace was born in Champaign to Lyle and Betty (Shade) Grace on March 20, 1947; he graduated with a Bachelor of Science in Agricultural Economics in 1969 and married Janis "Jan" Meister in Springfield on September 4, 1982; and

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WHEREAS, Roger Grace began working for the Illinois Department of Agriculture in the Division of Markets; he worked for the Illinois Energy Office during the oil embargo and fuel shortage of 1973-1974; he then began working as a legislative aide to Congressman Ed Madigan and moved to Washington, D.C.; he became a staff member on the U.S. House of Representatives Committee on Agriculture; and

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WHEREAS, Roger Grace joined the family's farming business as the fifth generation of his family to continuously work the land, which is now in the hands of his son, Stephen; and

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WHEREAS, Roger Grace served on the board of Illini FS and as a trustee on the board of the Country Mutual Funds Trust; he

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1 was past director and legislative co-chair of the Champaign  
2 County Farm Bureau and was a member of the Illinois Corn  
3 Growers Association and the Illinois Soybean Association (Land  
4 of Lincoln Soybean Association); he was also a member of the  
5 Alpha Gamma Rho chapter at Southern Illinois University and  
6 served on the leadership board of Twin City Bible Church; and

7 WHEREAS, Roger Grace was named a News Gazette Farm Leader  
8 in 2000; and

9 WHEREAS, Roger Grace taught his family how to cast a reel,  
10 the best places to view an eclipse, where to find the best  
11 local restaurants in any city or country, the importance of  
12 studying cultural history, and how to grow the best sweet corn;  
13 he also held the secret to finding artifacts on the farm; and

14 WHEREAS, Roger Grace was preceded in death by his parents  
15 and his brother, Gary; and

16 WHEREAS, Roger Grace is survived by his wife, Jan; his  
17 daughters, Erin (Jason) Watson and Katherine (Manuel) Chavez;  
18 his son, Stephen; his grandchildren, Carolina Grace Chavez,  
19 Greyson Roger Watson, and one on the way; his sister, Barbara  
20 (David) Wilson; his brother, David; and his nephews, Tim Grace,  
21 Andy Grace, and Eric Wilson; therefore, be it

1           RESOLVED, BY THE SENATE OF THE ONE HUNDRED FIRST GENERAL  
2 ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, that we mourn the passing of  
3 Roger Douglas Grace and extend our sincere condolences to his  
4 family, friends, and all who knew and loved him; and be it  
5 further

6           RESOLVED, That a suitable copy of this resolution be  
7 presented to the family of Roger Grace as an expression of our  
8 deepest sympathy.