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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 Michael Joseph Terry of Springfield and Hollywood, Florida, who passed away on May 25, 2023; and

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WHEREAS, Michael Terry was born to Michael "Mickey" Terry (Tirro) and Esther Goldberg Terry in New York City on March 19, 1932; he and his sister, Pat, spent a majority of their childhood raised in an orphanage and separate foster homes during the Great Depression era; he was married to Lib Driggers, and they later divorced; he was married to Cindy Grooms, and they later divorced; he married Sue (Shymansky) Michael in 1979; and

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WHEREAS, Michael Terry served in the U.S. Army for 21 years, beginning at the age of 15 due to concealing his age; he was a master parachutist, completing over 80 jumps, and was a member of the Special Forces; he served twice during the Korean War and twice during the Vietnam War; he served on General Westmoreland's staff and was an advisor to the South Vietnamese; after returning to the United States, he served in various positions, including heading the Junior Reserve Officers' Training Corps (JROTC) program in Chicago schools; and

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1 WHEREAS, During his service, Michael Terry earned a
2 college degree by attending in-person night classes when
3 available at the locations of his various assignments; he also
4 attended the Defense Language Institute, where he learned
5 Vietnamese prior to his time in Vietnam; over his military
6 career, he earned two Bronze Stars, one Purple Heart, and 10
7 additional medals; and

8 WHEREAS, After retiring from the U.S. Army as a major, he
9 worked for the Xerox Corporation for 21 years, serving in
10 various positions until he retired as manager of Major
11 Accounts Programs; and

12 WHEREAS, Michael Terry supported various types of
13 charities, including those for children, military veterans,
14 the homeless, abused and abandoned animals, and organizations
15 researching treatments and a cure for Parkinson's disease; and

16 WHEREAS, Michael Terry enjoyed many activities, including
17 fishing, hunting both wild animals and mushrooms, working in
18 his vegetable and flower gardens, maintaining his lawn,
19 dancing, playing cards, golfing, boating, swimming, water
20 skiing, snow skiing, and staying active and fit; he liked
21 reading and taking on and completing handyman touch-up
22 projects, and he loved flying a private airplane in which he
23 had partial ownership; after he retired, he took cooking

1 classes at a local college to plan and prepare meals for his
2 wife, Sue; and

3 WHEREAS, Michael Terry was a good man who will be
4 remembered for his kindness and generosity; and

5 WHEREAS, Michael Terry was preceded in death by his
6 parents; his sister, Pat Pagan; his aunts and uncles; and
7 other family members and friends; and

8 WHEREAS, Michael Terry is survived by his wife; his son,
9 Bob (Genie) Terry; his grandchildren, Michael (Logan) Sterner,
10 Heather Lore, Elizabeth (Frank) Fosdick, and Natalie Terry; 13
11 great-grandchildren; three great-great-grandchildren; and
12 many cousins, nieces, and nephews; 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 Michael Joseph Terry and extend our sincere condolences to his
16 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 Michael Terry as an expression of
20 our deepest sympathy.