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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 Dr. Walter J. Hickey of Alton, who passed away on March 24, 2008; and

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WHEREAS, Dr. Walter J. Hickey was born on December 18, 1948 in Alton; he was son of John J. and Mary Margaret (Gibbons) Hickey; and

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WHEREAS, Dr. Walter J. Hickey proudly served his country in the United States Army in Germany during the Vietnam Conflict; and

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WHEREAS, Following his stint in the United States Army, Dr. Walter J. Hickey returned home and earned his bachelor's degree from Southern Illinois University in Edwardsville; he then began working in public relations and advertising in Chicago, working at firms such as Carl Byior and Associates and the Pacific Federation of Chicago; and

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WHEREAS, Following a 20 year career in corporate public relations at SBC, Dr. Walter J. Hickey fulfilled his lifelong goal by returning to higher education, justifying the faith placed in him by several early mentors, including Drs. Nicholas Joost, Fred Robbins, and John McCluskey; he earned his master's

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1 degree in literature from Southern Illinois University in
2 Edwardsville and successfully defended his dissertation at
3 Saint Louis University in 2006; after defending his
4 dissertation, he was conferred a Ph.D. in British Literature;
5 and

6 WHEREAS, Dr. Walter J. Hickey read and wrote prodigiously
7 throughout his entire life, publishing and winning awards for
8 his short fiction and poetry; he was featured in journals such
9 as the Sou'wester, Prairie Light Review, and the Atlantic
10 Monthly; he also presented papers on pedagogy and literature at
11 the National Conferences of the MLA and the Community College
12 Humanities Association; and

13 WHEREAS, Dr. Walter J. Hickey attended the St. Mary's
14 Catholic Church in Alton; he was a member of the Appearance
15 Review Commission in Alton, the Hibernians, Phi Beta Kappa, the
16 NAACP, and the Madison County Urban League; and

17 WHEREAS, Dr. Walter J. Hickey is survived by his daughters,
18 Nora C. Hickey and Mary Margaret "Maggie" Hickey; his son,
19 Morgan John Hickey; his grandson, Conor J. Hickey; his siblings
20 and their spouses, Ralpa and Randy Hausmann, Kathleen Reilly,
21 Patricia and Rollin Martin, Rebecca and Gary Osborne, and James
22 and Marcy Hickey; and his dog and best friend, Whitey Davis
23 Hickey; therefore, be it

1 RESOLVED, BY THE SENATE OF THE NINETY-FIFTH GENERAL
2 ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, that we mourn, along with
3 his family and friends, the passing of Dr. Walter J. Hickey;
4 and be it further

5 RESOLVED, That a suitable copy of this resolution be
6 presented to the family of Dr. Walter J. Hickey as an
7 expression of our sympathy.