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LRB100 24312 ALS 43594 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 William Dean "Bill" "Kirbo" Kirby of Tolono, who passed away on November 23, 2018; and

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WHEREAS, Bill Kirby was born in Buffalo Hart to Agnes Opal (Duncan) and Arthur Taylor Kirby on July 18, 1920; he attended Blackburn College and then graduated from the University of Illinois in 1942; after earning his degree, he enlisted in the United States Army Air Forces, where he served in the war as a medical administration officer in England and rode a pontoon plane that traveled back and forth over the English Channel picking up survivors; he rose to the rank of second lieutenant; he married Norma Jean Schroeder on April 8, 1943; and

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WHEREAS, After the war, Bill Kirby worked for Georgetown schools and taught agriculture and biology; during this time, he and some of his friends organized the annual Georgetown Fair, which was officially recognized by the Illinois Department of Agriculture in 1948; after teaching for five years, he worked as an agent for County Financial Insurance until his retirement in 1985; and

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WHEREAS, Bill Kirby served as mayor of Tolono from 1961 until 1969 and then as a trustee for eight more years; during

1 his time with the village, he felt his biggest achievement was  
2 the establishment of a sanitary sewer system; he was the  
3 treasurer for the Unit 7 School District for 20 years; he also  
4 wrote a popular weekly column for The County Star, in which he  
5 discussed Buffalo, the war, Tolono, and Unit 7; he compiled his  
6 writings into the book, "Buffalo Chips and Tolono Clips" in  
7 2000; in recent years, he served as president of the Tolono  
8 Historical Society and the Veterans Museum; and

9 WHEREAS, Bill Kirby was an active member of the Tolono  
10 United Methodist Church and the Tolono Lions Club; he was a  
11 long-term member of the VFW and the American Legion; he was an  
12 avid fan of Fighting Illini football and basketball and  
13 attended as many games as he could for as long as he was able;  
14 he will be remembered for his love for his community; and

15 WHEREAS, Bill Kirby was preceded in death by his wife,  
16 Norma; his son, Richard (Sue); his daughter, Gail; his parents;  
17 and his five brothers; and

18 WHEREAS, Bill Kirby is survived by his sons, Robert  
19 (Claudia) and Rod (Cathy); his seven grandchildren; and his  
20 five great-grandchildren; therefore, be it

21 RESOLVED, BY THE SENATE OF THE ONE HUNDREDTH GENERAL  
22 ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, that we mourn the passing of

1 William Dean "Bill" "Kirbo" Kirby and extend our sincere  
2 condolences to his family, friends, and all who knew and loved  
3 him; and be it further

4       RESOLVED, That a suitable copy of this resolution be  
5 presented to the family of Bill Kirby as an expression of our  
6 deepest sympathy.