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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. Allison L. Burdick Jr., who passed away on November 6, 2018 at the age of 94; and

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WHEREAS, Dr. Burdick was born to Dr. Allison L. Burdick Sr. and Adelaide Bartholf Burdick on June 7, 1924; he grew up in Galewood and graduated from Austin High School; he married his high school sweetheart, Beatrice "Bea" King, in June of 1946; he attended the University of Illinois Medical School; and

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WHEREAS, Dr. Burdick served the United States Navy as a medical doctor at Great Lakes Naval Academy, as well as in San Diego and Albuquerque; he returned to the Chicago area and completed residencies at Hines VA Hospital in Maywood and West Suburban Hospital in Oak Park; in 1952, he joined his father in private practice on the West Side of Chicago; and

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WHEREAS, Dr. Burdick had a vision of educating future family practice doctors and served as a professor in the Department of Family Practice at Rush University Medical School; he was a pioneer in family practice medicine and worked to save the family doctor profession while becoming one of the founding fathers of the family medicine movement in the United States, which carries an emphasis on the family unit,

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1 preventative medicine, and patient education; he was a
2 visionary leader who believed that the "people specialty," as
3 family practice doctors were known, was essential to providing
4 ongoing medical care to patients; and

5 WHEREAS, In 1971, Dr. Burdick established one of the
6 country's first residency programs at West Suburban Hospital
7 for in-depth training in family medicine; in a ceremony in
8 2009, with nearly 100 graduates from all over the country in
9 attendance, the West Suburban Hospital Family Medicine
10 Residency Program was officially named the A.L. Burdick Family
11 Medicine Center to honor his legacy; to date, over 250 new
12 physicians have graduated from this program; and

13 WHEREAS, Dr. Burdick was a diplomat of the American Board
14 of Family Practice for years and served as its vice president
15 for education; he held several offices with the Illinois
16 Academy of Family Physicians and served as president from 1970
17 until 1971; he also held numerous positions with the Illinois
18 State Medical Society and was president of the Aux Plaines
19 Branch of the Chicago Medical Society in 1968; and

20 WHEREAS, Dr. Burdick was known for his passion, leadership,
21 and his ability to teach in a way that influenced his residents
22 for the rest of their careers; former staff members in the
23 Family Practice Department at West Suburban Hospital

1 considered it an honor and a privilege to work with him; he was
2 a "fantastic role model, a compassionate physician, a
3 delightful colleague, and an ardent educator"; many of his
4 former students felt they owed him a tremendous debt of
5 gratitude for helping to develop family practice residencies
6 throughout Illinois; and

7 WHEREAS, Dr. Burdick and his wife, Bea, were members of
8 various yacht clubs and tennis clubs over the years, and he
9 once sailed his boat across Lake Michigan to his summer home on
10 White Lake in Whitehall, Michigan; he was admired for his love
11 of the "good things" in life, including music, books, tennis,
12 the outdoors, boats, and the sun on his face; his happiest days
13 were with family, especially holidays; his unconditional love,
14 patience, wisdom, and gentle nature will live on in his
15 children and grandchildren, of whom he was very proud; and

16 WHEREAS, Dr. Burdick was preceded in death by his wife of
17 71 years, Bea; and

18 WHEREAS, Dr. Burdick is survived by his children, Stephanie
19 Kennington, Susan (Bob) Merz, Bradley (Linda) Burdick, and
20 Robert (Alison) Burdick; his grandchildren, Brandon, Alison,
21 Scott, Kimberly, Marissa, Jenna, Mallory, and Collin; and his
22 nine great-grandchildren; 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 Dr. Allison L. Burdick Jr. and extend our 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 Dr. Burdick as an expression of our
8 deepest sympathy.