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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 Winton Udell Solberg, who passed away on July 10, 2019; and

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WHEREAS, Winton Solberg was born on a farm near Aberdeen, South Dakota to Ole A. and Bertha G. Tschappat Solberg on January 11, 1922; he completed public school in Aberdeen, South Dakota in 1939; he graduated from the University of South Dakota magna cum laude with a degree in history and political science in 1943; he married Constance "Connie" Walton in New York City on November 8, 1952; and

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WHEREAS, Winton Solberg was inducted into the United States Army and sent to Officers' Candidate School at Fort Benning, Georgia; he was commissioned a second lieutenant on May 27, 1943 and trained troops for over a year; on September 10, 1944, he sailed for Europe, arriving in England a week later; he landed on Omaha Beach on September 20, 1944 and joined the 115th Infantry Regiment of the 29th Infantry Division near the battlefront at Aachen, Germany; an officer in a heavy weapons platoon, he was on the northern flank of the Allied Expeditionary Forces, and his unit fought in the Battle of the Bulge, after which it advanced to the Elbe River; after the European War ended, he served more than a year in Germany in

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1 the Army of Occupation; and

2 WHEREAS, Winton Solberg was called back to the Army during  
3 the Korean War, serving as an instructor at West Point's U.S.  
4 Military Academy; he continued his military service by  
5 lecturing at the Army Command General Staff School and the Army  
6 War College, as well as through summer duties as a Reserve  
7 Officer; he retired from the Army as a lieutenant colonel in  
8 1982; and

9 WHEREAS, Winton Solberg earned both a master's degree and a  
10 doctorate in American history from Harvard University; he  
11 taught history at Yale University from 1954 until 1958, then at  
12 Macalaster College in St. Paul, Minnesota; he joined the  
13 history department of the University of Illinois at  
14 Urbana-Champaign in 1961; during his academic career, he taught  
15 American history around the world, including as a Fulbright  
16 professor in Bologna, Italy, at Moscow State University in the  
17 USSR, and at the University of Calcutta, India; he held  
18 professorships at Konan University in Kobe, Japan, at Loyola  
19 University in Madras, India, and at St. Stephen's in Delhi,  
20 India; the University of South Dakota conferred an honorary  
21 degree of Doctor of Humane Letters upon him in 1987; the  
22 University of Illinois awarded him its highest campus honor,  
23 the Chancellor's Medallion, in 2017; he retired from the  
24 University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign in 1991; and

1           WHEREAS, During his career, Winton Solberg played an active  
2 role in the governance of higher education, serving as chairman  
3 of the history department, a member of the Senate on the Urbana  
4 campus, secretary of the University Senates' Conference in the  
5 1970s, president of the Urbana chapter of the American  
6 Association of University Professors (AAUP), a member of the  
7 Committee on Academic Freedom and Tenure of the AAUP, and vice  
8 president of the AAUP; and

9           WHEREAS, Winton Solberg's expertise was American  
10 intellectual and cultural history; he received several awards  
11 for excellence in teaching and kept in touch with many former  
12 students; his books and articles covered various topics in  
13 American thought and culture over the nation's history,  
14 including the formation of the American constitution, the  
15 Puritan Sabbath in early America, scientific knowledge in early  
16 America, and the history of U.S. higher education; he wrote two  
17 volumes on the history of the University of Illinois from its  
18 beginning to 1904, a book on Illinois' College of Medicine from  
19 1880 to 1920, and a volume on the Big Ten athletic conference  
20 from 1985 to 1945; his book Arctic Mirage: The 1913-1920  
21 Expedition in Search of Crocker Land is in press at MacFarland  
22 Publishers; the last volume in his series on the history of the  
23 University of Illinois is in preparation for the U of I Press,  
24 thanks to the help of his friend, colleague, and early graduate

1 student, David Hoeveler; he was writing and researching until  
2 his last years and had occupied a study for over 50 years in  
3 the University of Illinois main library, where he worked  
4 assiduously, many days a week, until he was 96; and

5 WHEREAS, Winton Solberg was preceded in death by his wife,  
6 Connie; his parents; and his brothers, Elmo and Lincoln; and

7 WHEREAS, Winton Solberg is survived by his children, Gail  
8 (Giulio Nicita), Andrew (Yasemin Ciftci), and Kristin (David  
9 Seyler); and his grandchildren, Suzanne, Tarkan, Matthew, and  
10 Benjamin Solberg, Giulia and Marta Nicita, and John and Stuart  
11 Seyler; therefore, be it

12 RESOLVED, BY THE SENATE OF THE ONE HUNDRED FIRST GENERAL  
13 ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, that we mourn the passing of  
14 Winton Udell Solberg and extend our sincere condolences to his  
15 family, friends, and all who knew and loved him; and be it  
16 further

17 RESOLVED, That a suitable copy of this resolution be  
18 presented to the family of Winton Solberg as an expression of  
19 our deepest sympathy.