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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 Gardner Crowell, who passed away on July 15, 2019 at the age of 88; and

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WHEREAS, Michael Crowell was born in Philadelphia to James and Marjorie (Marcy) Crowell on June 17, 1931; he was raised in Riverton, New Jersey and attended Groton School; he graduated from Amherst College in 1953; he later served in the United States Navy as a fighter pilot on the USS Essex; upon his return from military service, he earned his Doctor of Philosophy in English Literature and Linguistics from Northwestern University; and

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WHEREAS, Michael Crowell built a professional career as a professor of English at Knox College in Galesburg from 1961 until 1996; he was most proud of the Freshman Preceptorial, now the First-Year Preceptorial, an interdisciplinary seminar he developed with colleagues that introduces students to the intellectual excitement of the liberal arts education by exploring classic, existential questions; as a sailor and lover of the sea, Moby Dick was his favorite novel to teach; and

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WHEREAS, Michael Crowell loved Walt Whitman's poetry, spoke French, and was a master limerick creator; he was an

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1 aficionado of the opera, his dogs, and reading; and

2 WHEREAS, Michael Crowell and his wife, Karen, retired to  
3 their old Norwegian farm near Washburn, Wisconsin in 2001,  
4 where he enjoyed sailing, raising chickens, and visiting with  
5 friends and family; he became immersed in the Washburn  
6 community as an environmentalist and served on the Bayfield  
7 Regional Conservancy Board; though he was raised Episcopalian,  
8 he became a devoted member of the Chequamegon Unitarian  
9 Universalist Fellowship, where he spoke on the beginnings of  
10 the American Unitarian Universalist congregation, offering a  
11 personal view that avoided dates and names in favor of  
12 analyzing emerging viewpoints, in much the same way he did as a  
13 professor; and

14 WHEREAS, Michael Crowell will be remembered for his quick  
15 wit, ironic humor, and interest in the environment, as  
16 evidenced by his collection of animal feces; he was known for  
17 his warm, friendly smile, for his courtesy and respect towards  
18 colleagues of all ages, and as a gifted educator who shared his  
19 passion for literature with his students; and

20 WHEREAS, Michael Crowell and his wife, Karen, were grateful  
21 to the community they called home for 18 years, establishing  
22 the Michael and Karen Ruedi Crowell Fund to address the  
23 changing needs of the region served by the Chequamegon Bay Area

1 Community; and

2 WHEREAS, Michael Crowell was preceded in death by his  
3 parents; his brother, Alexander M. Crowell; his son, Peter M.  
4 Crowell; and his first wife, Virginia Huysman; and

5 WHEREAS, Michael Crowell is survived by his wife of 44  
6 years, Karen Ruedi Crowell; his sons, James G. (Julie  
7 Rademaker) Crowell, John A. (Megan Williamson) Crowell, and  
8 Matthew P. (Michelle Frey) Crowell; his daughter-in-law, Wendy  
9 MacWilliams; his grandchildren, Peter Crowell Jr., Madeline  
10 Crowell, Gavin Crowell-Williamson, M. Gardner Crowell, Erin  
11 Crowell, and Thomas Crowell; and his nephew, Thomas P. Crowell;  
12 therefore, be it

13 RESOLVED, BY THE SENATE OF THE ONE HUNDRED FIRST GENERAL  
14 ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, that we mourn the passing of  
15 Michael Gardner Crowell and extend our sincere condolences to  
16 his 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 Crowell as an expression of  
20 our deepest sympathy.