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LRB101 22897 LAW 73988 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 Reverend Wesley Harold Wilkie, who passed away on January 25, 2020 at the age of 81; and

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WHEREAS, Rev. Wilkie was born in Saginaw, Michigan to Harold and Irene (Rutkowsky) Wilkie on May 3, 1938; he graduated from the original Detroit Lutheran High School in 1955; he earned his bachelor's degree from Valparaiso University, where he studied theology; he obtained his Master of Divinity from Concordia Seminary in St. Louis; he married Luann Stein in 1962, and she preceded him in death in 1994; together, they had two daughters, Diana and Lauren; he was ordained in 1964; he earned his Ph.D. from the University of Chicago in 1971; he married Dorothy Fischer in 1996; and

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WHEREAS, Rev. Wilkie joined the Theology Department of Concordia Teachers College in River Forest, now known as Concordia University Chicago; he served as acting president and academic dean at Concordia College Selma in Selma, Alabama in 1968; he returned to Concordia Teachers College and served as the dean of chapel from 1971 to 1974; he became a visiting instructor at Oak Hill Theological College in London, England from 1980 to 1981; he later served as a philosophy teacher at Concordia University Chicago, where he was eventually

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1 appointed an associate professor of theology in 1990; he  
2 followed his passion for teaching church history and world  
3 religions by leading various student trips to countries around  
4 the world, including Jordan, Israel, Hong Kong, China, and  
5 England; he retired from full-time teaching in 2003; his  
6 scholarly interests included exploring Easter Vigils in the  
7 Orthodox traditions and membership in the North American  
8 Academy of Ecumenists; he regularly attended the National  
9 Workshop on Church Unity; and

10 WHEREAS, Rev. Wilkie was a member of Grace Lutheran Church  
11 and regularly attended the Bach Cantata Vespers services;  
12 alongside his wife Dorothy, he enjoyed fishing and traveling in  
13 the United States and throughout the world; he was an avid  
14 outdoorsman; he completed two marathons and was a frequent deer  
15 hunter; and

16 WHEREAS, Rev. Wilkie will be remembered for his passion for  
17 educating and the impact he left on his students; and

18 WHEREAS, Rev. Wilkie was preceded in death by his parents;  
19 his wife, Luann (Stein) Wilkie; his brother, Richard Wilkie;  
20 and his granddaughter, Erin Wilkie; and

21 WHEREAS, Rev. Wilkie is survived by his wife, Dorothy  
22 Wilkie; his children, Diana (Rick) Buffie, Lauren Wilkie (John

1 Elser), John Fischer (Cathy Ryan), and Kathy (Jeff) Spies; his  
2 grandchildren, Jennifer, Brian (Sara), Karin, Kirsten, Jai,  
3 and Nina; and his great-grandchildren, Ethan and Kallie;  
4 therefore, be it

5 RESOLVED, BY THE SENATE OF THE ONE HUNDRED FIRST GENERAL  
6 ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, that we mourn the passing of  
7 Reverend Wesley Harold Wilkie and extend our sincere  
8 condolences to his family, friends, and all who knew and loved  
9 him; and be it further

10 RESOLVED, That a suitable copy of this resolution be  
11 presented to the family of Rev. Wilkie as an expression of our  
12 deepest sympathy.