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HOUSE RESOLUTION

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WHEREAS, The members of the Illinois House of Representatives are saddened to learn of the death of Richard M. "Dick" Johnson, Ph.D., of Chicago, who passed away on January 7, 2020; and

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WHEREAS, Dr. Johnson was born in Fort Wayne, Indiana on October 31, 1934; he received his bachelor's degree from Miami University of Ohio; he served as a commissioned officer in the U.S. Navy from 1956 to 1961; he earned his master's degree from American University and his doctoral degree from the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign; and

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WHEREAS, Dr. Johnson was professor emeritus of Political Science, and his research interests included American politics and government, urban politics, and political behavior; he served in a variety of academic and administrative leadership positions over three decades at the University of Illinois at Chicago before retiring in August 2000; and

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WHEREAS, Dr. Johnson began his career in academia as an assistant and associate professor of Political Science at the State University of New York at Buffalo (SUNY Buffalo) before coming to the University of Illinois at Chicago, where he was hired as professor and head of Political Science in 1969; he

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1 was associate dean of the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences
2 from 1972 to 1974 and acting dean from 1973 to 1974; he served
3 as associate vice chancellor of Academic Affairs from 1976 to
4 1977, acting vice chancellor of Academic Affairs from 1977 to
5 1978, and vice chancellor of Academic Affairs from 1978 to
6 1986; he was chair of Political Science from 1987 to 1991; and

7 WHEREAS, Dr. Johnson worked on civic education and
8 programs focused on democracy and economic and social
9 development in countries around the world through Heartland
10 International, a nonprofit organization established by his
11 wife, Karen Egerer; and

12 WHEREAS, Dr. Johnson and his wife established the
13 Professor Richard M. Johnson and Karen A. Egerer LAS Study
14 Abroad Scholarship at the University of Illinois at Chicago in
15 support of students majoring in the College of Liberal Arts
16 and Sciences and hoping to participate in study abroad
17 programs; and

18 WHEREAS, Dr. Johnson was a warm and kind man who was
19 willing to share his knowledge and perspective with those
20 willing to listen and learn from him; he had a wry sense of
21 humor, often coupled with a trademark twinkle in his eye; he
22 was passionate about his academic life and the University of
23 Illinois at Chicago; he loved sailing and traveling, and he

1 and his wife enjoyed many adventures together; he was a
2 devoted husband to Karen, and they cultivated a wide circle of
3 friends who loved him dearly; and

4 WHEREAS, At the time of his death, Dr. Johnson was
5 survived by his wife, Karen A. Egerer; his daughters, Kathleen
6 Johnson (Jim Koopman) and Deborah Johnson Bousquet (Gilles
7 Bousquet); his stepson, Paul Minnice; his grandchildren,
8 Michael (Danielle Grotjahn), Natalie, Daniel, and Zachary; and
9 his brother, Robert (Betsy Johnson); therefore, be it

10 RESOLVED, BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE
11 HUNDRED SECOND GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, that
12 we mourn the passing of Richard M. "Dick" Johnson, Ph.D., and
13 extend our sincere condolences to his family, friends, and all
14 who knew and loved him; and be it further

15 RESOLVED, That a suitable copy of this resolution be
16 presented to the family of Dr. Johnson as an expression of our
17 deepest sympathy.