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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 Norman "Norm" V. Kelly of Peoria, who passed away on August 4, 2020; and

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WHEREAS, Norm Kelly was born to Orris and Lillian (Ryan) Kelly in Peoria on April 24, 1932; he graduated from Woodruff High School in 1950; he served in the Korean War as a Staff Sergeant in a medical unit; after the war, he attended Bradley University and graduated in 1958; he married Gloria Keith in Peoria on September 23, 1961; and

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WHEREAS, Norm Kelly worked as a private investigator and as a paralegal; he was a well known radio personality who appeared on all of the local talk shows in Peoria as well as several T.V. shows; he was a frequent speaker at service clubs and luncheons; and

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WHEREAS, Norm Kelly was an accomplished writer who had written ten books about the history of Peoria, mostly focusing on the bawdy, seedy, and dangerous elements of Peoria's long history from 1845 through 1950; he also wrote the book Officer Down, which chronicled the death of officers that had died in the line of duty in Peoria; Genesis: The Park Murders was his penultimate book, which sold out the first two printings; his

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1 last book was False Face; he was a member of the prestigious  
2 Mystery Writers of America for many years; and

3 WHEREAS, Norm Kelly also wrote close to 300 short stories,  
4 including mystery, fiction, and adventure pieces; he wrote  
5 hundreds of articles about Peoria and wrote for NEWS and VIEWS  
6 and stories for The Times Observer, Arts and Society, Journal  
7 Star, and Downstate Story; he had stories printed in multiple  
8 newspapers, America's Most Wanted, dozens of newsletters, and  
9 Central Illinois Business Publishers; he wrote the play The  
10 Case of the Missing Manuscript for the Peoria Library; this  
11 play was shown on local TV and starred local celebrities; and

12 WHEREAS, Norm Kelly discovered that PFC Zimmerman, the  
13 first soldier with ties to Peoria to die in the Korean War, was  
14 not on the Korean Monument in Peoria; PFC Zimmerman was added  
15 to the monument after this discovery; he wrote stories of five  
16 officers that had died in the line of duty but were never  
17 honored, and their names are now on all three police memorials  
18 in Illinois and in Washington, D.C.; and

19 WHEREAS, Norm Kelly was selected as a Distinguished Alumni  
20 of Woodruff High School in 2006; he was awarded the Landin  
21 Award from the Peoria Park District and two distinguished  
22 service awards from the Peoria and State Police Departments;  
23 he represented the United States as the U.S. Clue Champion in

1 1986 in New York City; he gave \$12,000 to local non-profit  
2 organizations in Peoria over the years; and

3 WHEREAS, Norm Kelly was preceded in death by his parents  
4 and his eight siblings; and

5 WHEREAS, Norm Kelly is survived by his wife; his daughter,  
6 Lynne Renee (Paul) Schelly; his son, Keith (Angie) Kelly; his  
7 grandchildren, Brooke (Chris) Galvan and Sam Schelly; his  
8 sister, Sara Shatto; his brother, David (Debbie) Kelly; and  
9 his several nieces and nephews; therefore, be it

10 RESOLVED, BY THE SENATE OF THE ONE HUNDRED SECOND GENERAL  
11 ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, that we mourn the passing of  
12 Norman "Norm" V. Kelly and extend our sincere condolences to  
13 his family, friends, and all who knew and loved him; and be it  
14 further

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