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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 Richard L. "Dick" Thies of Urbana, who passed away on April 10, 2021; and

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WHEREAS, Dick Thies was born in Scotts Bluff, Nebraska to Arnold C. and Wilma P. Thies on November 7, 1931; during his upbringing, he lived in a number of locations, including Kimbell and Gering, both in Nebraska, and Riverside, California, where he performed as a boy soprano at the famous Mission Inn; he graduated from Drummer Township High School in Gibson City in 1949; he received a Bachelor of Arts in History from the University of Illinois in 1953, where he served as the student president of the UI YMCA and a student chair of then-Governor Adlai E. Stevenson II's campaign for U.S. president; he married Marilyn Webber in 1954; he earned his LL.B., later converted to a Juris Doctor, from the University of Illinois College of Law in 1955; he served in the Judge Advocate General's Department of the U.S. Air Force from 1956 to 1958; and

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WHEREAS, Dick Thies practiced law at the firm Webber & Thies, P.C. in Urbana with his father-in-law and founder, Judge Charles M. Webber, and his brothers-in-law, Craig R. Webber and Carl M. Webber; his law practice covered a wide

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1 range of areas for a diverse client mix; he was particularly
2 fond of the work he did negotiating on behalf of U.S. clients
3 in the People's Republic of China and in helping with the
4 development of Frasca Field in Urbana, the home of his private
5 airplane he flew for 30 years; he was especially proud when he
6 was joined at the firm by his sons, David and John, and later
7 his grandson, Daniel; and

8 WHEREAS, Dick Thies was a leader in the legal profession
9 and was noted by peers for serving the interests of his clients
10 with skill and integrity; he served as president of the
11 Illinois State Bar Association from 1986 to 1987, and he
12 served in many capacities and held every high office in that
13 organization; he belonged to the American Bar Association
14 (ABA), where he was elected to ABA's Board of Governors in 1988
15 and was a member of the ABA House of Delegates for 27 years; he
16 also held offices in a number of ABA-related organizations;
17 and

18 WHEREAS, Dick Thies received many awards during his
19 lifetime, including the Illinois State Bar Association's Award
20 of Merit, the Illinois News Broadcasters' Distinguished
21 Service Award, and the Abraham Lincoln Association's Lincoln
22 the Lawyer Award; he was included in the inaugural class of the
23 Champaign County Bar Association's Pillars of the Bar; and

1 WHEREAS, Dick Thies was involved in many organizations and
2 institutions in the Champaign-Urbana community; he served as
3 president of the Champaign-Urbana Kiwanis Club and the Urbana
4 Association of Commerce; he was chairman of the Citizens
5 Advisory Board of the Urbana School Board; he was a member the
6 Salvation Army Advisory Board, the Urbana Park Board, the
7 Champaign-Urbana Symphony Board, and the boards of the
8 National Academy of Arts and the Champaign-Urbana Urban
9 League; he was a member and an elder of First Presbyterian
10 Church of Urbana; he belonged to the President's Council of
11 the University of Illinois Foundation and the Dean's Club of
12 the University of Illinois College of Law; he was a life member
13 of the University of Illinois Alumni Association, where he
14 served on the Alumni Association's Trustee Selection Committee
15 on four occasions; and

16 WHEREAS, Dick Thies loved and participated in many sports,
17 including the freshman basketball and baseball teams at the
18 University of Illinois; he taught his children a love of
19 sports and a desire for competition at the highest levels; he
20 enjoyed watching his children participate in their respective
21 sports; and

22 WHEREAS, Dick Thies will be remembered for his life of
23 commitment to his family, to his profession, to his church,
24 and to his community; and

1 WHEREAS, Dick Thies was preceded in death by his parents;
2 his stepfather, David C. Player; his brother-in-law, Craig R.
3 Webber; his sister-in-law, Alice J. Webber; and his
4 brother-in-law, James L. Zaccagni; and

5 WHEREAS, Dick Thies is survived by his wife of 66 years,
6 Marilyn Webber Thies; his brother, Dr. David M. Player (Beth);
7 his sister, Jennifer G. Zaccagni; his brother-in-law, Carl M.
8 Webber (Betty); his children, David C. Thies (Johanna), Nancy
9 Thies Marshall (Charlie), Susan Thies Harrison (Mike), John E.
10 Thies (Terry), and Anne Thies Peters (Jeff); his 16
11 grandchildren, Stephanie Thies Geier (husband, Brian;
12 children, Ben and Willa), Daniel Thies (wife, Page; children,
13 Edward, Peter, Samuel, and Mary), Michael Thies (wife,
14 Kristin), Adam Thies (wife, Bethany; son, Clive), Ryan
15 Marshall (wife, Ali Marshall; children, Lucille and Ruth),
16 Caitlin St. Peter (husband, Beau; daughter, Charlotte), John
17 Marshall, Isaac Harrison (wife, Abigail), Marie Collins
18 (husband, Jacob), Elizabeth Harrison, William Harrison,
19 Kathryn Thies, Caroline Thies, Andrew Peters (wife, Ashlee),
20 Luke Peters, and Bailey Peters; his 10 great-grandchildren
21 (with one on the way); and his many cousins, nieces, nephews,
22 and friends; therefore, be it

23 RESOLVED, BY THE SENATE OF THE ONE HUNDRED SECOND GENERAL

1 ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, that we mourn the passing of
2 Richard L. "Dick" Thies and extend our sincere condolences to
3 his family, friends, and all who knew and loved him; and be it
4 further

5 RESOLVED, That a suitable copy of this resolution be
6 presented to the family of Dick Thies as an expression of our
7 deepest sympathy.