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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 Roy Arthur Axford, Sc.D., of Urbana, who passed away on March 10, 2021; and

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WHEREAS, Dr. Axford was born in Detroit to Charlotte Donaldson Paulson and Roy Paulson on August 26, 1928; he was later adopted by his mother's second husband, Morgan Axford; he received his Bachelor of Arts in Physics from Williams College and his Bachelor of Science in General Science from MIT in June 1952; he married Anne Sophie Langfeldt Rasmussen on April 1, 1954, and she preceded him in death on September 20, 2017; he received his Master of Science in Nuclear Engineering from MIT in June 1955; he became the first student to earn his Doctor of Science in Nuclear Engineering from MIT in February 1958; and

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WHEREAS, Dr. Axford worked as a nuclear engineer for the Technical Research Group Inc. in New York in 1958 and as a supervisor for the Theoretical Physics Group, Atomics International in Canoga Park, California from 1958 to 1960; subsequently, he entered the academic community for the rest of his career; and

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WHEREAS, Dr. Axford's academic appointments included

1 associate professor of Nuclear Engineering from 1960 to 1962
2 and professor of Nuclear Engineering from 1962 to 1963 at
3 Texas A&M University, associate professor of Nuclear
4 Engineering from 1963 to 1966 at Northwestern University, and
5 associate professor of Nuclear Engineering from 1966 to 1968,
6 professor of Nuclear Engineering from 1968 to August 2017 and
7 professor emeritus at the University of Illinois at
8 Urbana-Champaign; during his 51 years of teaching at the
9 University of Illinois, he mentored numerous master's degree
10 students and 54 doctoral students; he advised students, served
11 on many university committees, and received numerous teaching
12 honors; and

13 WHEREAS, Dr. Axford also served as a consultant; starting
14 in 1963, he spent 44 summers as a consultant at the Los Alamos
15 National Laboratory (LANL), X-Division, Theoretical and
16 Computational Physics in Los Alamos, New Mexico; and

17 WHEREAS, Dr. Axford belonged to a number of professional
18 societies, including the American Nuclear Society, which named
19 him a fellow in 2018; and

20 WHEREAS, Dr. Axford was preceded in death by his wife of 63
21 years, Anne; and

22 WHEREAS, Dr. Axford is survived by his children, Roy

1 (Sarah), Trevor (Cyndi), and Elizabeth; his grandchildren,
2 Noah, Charlie, Madison, and Mackenzie; his cousins, Pete
3 Donaldson and Jay Chandler (Fleur); and his nieces, nephews,
4 and cousins in the U.S. and Norway; therefore, be it

5 RESOLVED, BY THE SENATE OF THE ONE HUNDRED SECOND GENERAL
6 ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, that we mourn the passing of
7 Roy Arthur Axford, Sc.D. and extend our sincere condolences to
8 his family, friends, and all who knew and loved him; and be it
9 further

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