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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 The Reverend Dr. Randall Lee "Randy" Saxon of East Peoria, who passed away on June 12, 2021; and

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WHEREAS, Randy Saxon was born in Waverly, New York to Sherm and Velma Saxon on October 28, 1947 and raised in Athens, New York; he received a Bachelor of Arts in English from Mansfield University, a Master of Divinity from Princeton Theological Seminary, and a Doctor of Ministry from Drew University; twice, he was invited to study at Oxford University in England and completed their Summer Religious Studies Program; he also earned certifications as a Master Gardener and Master Naturalist from the University of Illinois-Extension; and

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WHEREAS, Randy Saxon served in the ministry for 40 years; he served at churches in Pennsylvania, New York, Texas, and in Wilmette; he also served at First Presbyterian Church of Peoria and retired as Pastor Emeritus of United Presbyterian Church in Peoria; he co-founded the United Presbyterian Church in Peoria; and

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WHEREAS, Randy Saxon taught philosophy at Illinois Central College and over 40 classes for the Bradley University Osher

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1 Life Long Learning program; he led programs and was a guest
2 speaker on Abraham Lincoln and the Civil War throughout the
3 nation; and

4 WHEREAS, Randy Saxon was an active Mason and Rotarian who
5 was thrice named a Paul Harris Fellow; he achieved the rank of
6 Eagle Scout in his youth and continued to serve the Boy Scouts
7 of America as a troop leader, commissioner, and council
8 representative; he was a chaplain at the Ingersoll Rand Boy
9 Scout Camp; he served as the President of the Illinois State
10 Historical Society and as a docent for the Abraham Lincoln
11 Presidential Library and Museum in Springfield; he spearheaded
12 the drive to erect a statue of Lincoln in Peoria at the
13 courthouse site of his famous 1854 speech against the spread
14 of slavery; and

15 WHEREAS, Randy Saxon received numerous awards and
16 recognitions; he was proud to receive an Alumni Citation from
17 his alma mater, Mansfield University, for civic and
18 philanthropic work and honors from the Shinnecock Indian Tribe
19 in New York for his mediation; and

20 WHEREAS, Randy Saxon could often be found outside tending
21 to his garden or the church garden or just out hiking and
22 observing wildlife; he enjoyed spending time volunteering in
23 his community in a wide variety of roles; he had a gentle soul

1 and a sharp, quick wit; he could always be counted on for a
2 warm smile, a corny pun, or a random, little-known fact; and

3 WHEREAS, Randy Saxon was preceded in death by his parents
4 and his stepmother, Betty Saxon; and

5 WHEREAS, Randy Saxon is survived by his wife, Anna; his
6 children, Heather (John) Blase, David (Dawn) Saxon, Jennifer
7 (Josh) Friedman, and Austin (Michelle Greenslate) Saxon; his
8 brothers, Jimmy, Kevin, and Shawn Saxon; his sisters, Peg
9 Arnold and Nancy Brown; and his grandchildren, Teslyn,
10 Rhiannon, Riley, Aaliyah, Saxon, Lizzie, and Jupiter;
11 therefore, be it

12 RESOLVED, BY THE SENATE OF THE ONE HUNDRED SECOND GENERAL
13 ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, that we mourn the passing of
14 The Reverend Dr. Randall Lee Saxon of East Peoria and extend
15 our sincere condolences to his family, friends, and all who
16 knew and loved him; and be it further

17 RESOLVED, That a suitable copy of this resolution be
18 presented to the family of Randy Saxon as an expression of our
19 deepest sympathy.