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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 David Samuel Bechtel of Savoy, who passed away on November 9, 2021; and

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WHEREAS, David Bechtel was born to Sam and Elsie Nixon Bechtel on October 6, 1945; he spent his childhood around the house and on the farm in Eureka; his best friend was his older sister, Doris "Sis" Bechtel Houser, who eventually made him a proud uncle to Woody and Brad Houser; he was actively involved in a number of activities and organizations, including 4-H, FFA, baseball, football, basketball, and church; and

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WHEREAS, David Bechtel was a platoon sergeant/sergeant first class in the Army National Guard; he served in infantry, transportation, and supply companies in Ft. Polk, Louisiana, Peoria, and Urbana; he served with honor and had a great respect for all those in military service; and

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WHEREAS, David Bechtel married Ann Davidson in 1970, and they had Daniel David in 1975 and Katherine Ann in 1978; every day of the last 46 years, he worked hard to be sure his children felt unconditionally loved; whether he was teaching his adult son to play baseball, writing letters to his daughter to stop getting into fender benders, or guiding them

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1 through their missteps and accolades, he handled his children  
2 like he handled everyone else in his life, with respect, love,  
3 and compassion; and

4 WHEREAS, David Bechtel began studying agricultural  
5 economics at the University of Illinois in Urbana-Champaign in  
6 1963; he was proud to say he held season tickets for 58  
7 straight years to both Illinois football and basketball; while  
8 there, he pledged the Alpha Gamma Rho (AGR) fraternity; in  
9 2004, on the centennial anniversary of AGR, he received the  
10 honor of being named a Brother of the Century on the national  
11 level; during his alumni life before social media flourished,  
12 he created a mass email list with hundreds of names from around  
13 the country and updated this group with news weekly; his  
14 connection to Greek life led him to his first job as dean of  
15 fraternity men at the University of Illinois; later in life,  
16 he served as his son's fraternity faculty adviser, eventually  
17 being awarded the Theta Chi National Fraternity Distinguished  
18 Service Award, the highest award given to a non-member; he  
19 also guided his daughter and her sisters through Greek life in  
20 Zeta Tau Alpha fraternity; and

21 WHEREAS, David Bechtel served the students of his alma  
22 mater in a 36-year career, as director of The Career Center and  
23 also in roles as acting dean of students and associate and  
24 assistant dean of students; he was admitted to his

1 profession's Academy of Fellows Hall of Fame, which recognized  
2 his 30-year career as a national leader in the field of college  
3 career services and corporate college recruiting; he founded  
4 the consortium of Big Ten college career service  
5 professionals; his Big Ten colleagues named its annual award  
6 the David S. Bechtel Career Educator of the Year in his honor;  
7 he also co-founded the national Management Leadership  
8 Institute, which has become a frequent stepping stone for  
9 professional opportunities and advancement in the field; he  
10 was a prolific researcher on college graduate career outcomes  
11 and received national awards and grants accordingly; he made  
12 numerous professional presentations, authored articles and  
13 book chapters, and consulted with businesses and other  
14 universities; and

15 WHEREAS, David Bechtel counseled thousands of U of I  
16 students and alumni and directed an innovative and  
17 comprehensive campus career center that was highly regarded by  
18 national peers and was a credit to the university; he  
19 initiated the concept of career development for  
20 undergraduates, and Illinois was the first in the nation to  
21 provide this resource in 1972, now an accepted practice in all  
22 4000-plus colleges and universities in the U.S.; in his later  
23 years, he authored The History of Career Services at the  
24 University of Illinois; and

1           WHEREAS, David Bechtel felt that grandparenthood was the  
2 epitome of a life well lived; after Katie and Brian had Alaric  
3 Arthur and Amara Christine and when Dan and Jennifer had  
4 Veronica Harper and Jack Rollins, he relished being a  
5 grandfather; when Dan and Melissa got married, Owen Daniel  
6 came into Dave's life, and his grandchild number went from  
7 four to five; his greatest joy was attending anything  
8 involving his grandchildren; and

9           WHEREAS, David Bechtel was devoted to the McKinley  
10 Presbyterian Church and Foundation, serving as an elder and  
11 its longest tenured foundation board member; he was the church  
12 centennial's co-chair and then the church's historian and  
13 archivist; he helped oversee the building of the new Presby  
14 Hall, a state-of-the-art residence hall next to the church;  
15 and

16           WHEREAS, David Bechtel served on the State University  
17 Annuitants Association of the U of I as a board member and  
18 program chair; he was on the Windsor of Savoy's Resident  
19 Advisory Committee and wrote the history of the Windsor of  
20 Savoy and served as master of ceremony at its 30th anniversary  
21 celebration; his social calendar was filled with lunches and  
22 dinners with friends, family events to attend, church  
23 activities, and current events club; he played weekly trivia  
24 at Windsor for years and joined a Zoom trivia night during the

1 pandemic that introduced him to new lifelong friends; and

2 WHEREAS, David Bechtel's weekly calls with his sister in  
3 Iowa were a priority, and he greatly anticipated family  
4 gatherings in Iowa City; Woody and Mindy gave him great-nieces  
5 and great-nephews, Samantha (Michael), Alinia (Joe), Benjamin,  
6 Taylor, and Matthew; Brad and Becky gave him Madison and  
7 Brady; being able to be with his family and bask in the glow of  
8 their love for each other was the time he treasured most; and

9 WHEREAS, David Bechtel led with love; a firm handshake,  
10 eye contact, and a smile were the most important life skills he  
11 taught; he never met a stranger, and people were drawn to him;  
12 he will be remembered as a man of loyalty, fairness, and  
13 integrity; therefore, be it

14 RESOLVED, BY THE SENATE OF THE ONE HUNDRED SECOND GENERAL  
15 ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, that we mourn the passing of  
16 David Samuel Bechtel and extend our sincere condolences to his  
17 family, friends, and all who knew and loved him; and be it  
18 further

19 RESOLVED, That a suitable copy of this resolution be  
20 presented to the family of David Bechtel as an expression of  
21 our deepest sympathy.