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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 Robert F. Rich, Ph.D, who passed away on August 7, 2022; and

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WHEREAS, Dr. Rich was born in Chicago on August 2, 1949; and

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WHEREAS, Dr. Rich's career included research, writing, teaching, and consulting in a variety of fields with an emphasis on health law, mental health policy, and law, as well as a pioneering role in the field of knowledge management and utilization; his career began in 1971 as a Deutscher Akademischer Austauschdienst Fullbright Scholar at the Freie Universität Berlin; he received the Marc Perry Galler Award from the University of Chicago for Best Doctoral Dissertation in the Graduate Social Science Division and the Leonard D. White Award from the American Political Science Association for Best Doctoral Dissertation in the Area of Public Administration; and

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WHEREAS, Dr. Rich was an internationally renowned scholar; his career included appointments at the University of Michigan, Princeton University, Carnegie Mellon University, and the University of Illinois; he was also a permanent fellow

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1 at the European Center for Comparative Government and Public
2 Policy with the Humboldt, Free and Technical Universities in
3 Berlin, Germany; he was a guest lecturer in Ecuador, China,
4 and Russia; he was also a visiting scholar at the Max Planck
5 Institute for Foreign and International Social Law as well as
6 the Brookings Institute and Johns Hopkins University; he was
7 the commencement speaker at Johns Hopkins in 1994 for the
8 School of Arts and Sciences; and

9 WHEREAS, Dr. Rich served as the director of the Institute
10 of Government and Public Affairs at the University of Illinois
11 from 1986 until he retired in 2012; he valued every
12 opportunity to mentor, engage with the community, and teach
13 others; his community engagement included volunteer work with
14 B'nai B'rith, the Urban League, the League of Women Voters,
15 and the Kiwanis Club; and

16 WHEREAS, Dr. Rich's career highlights at the University of
17 Illinois include holding the positions of director of the Jon
18 David and Elizabeth Epstein Health Law and Policy Program at
19 the College of Law and acting head of the Medical Humanities
20 and Social Sciences Program; in addition to his appointments
21 in the Colleges of Law, Medicine, and Political Science, he
22 held appointments in the community health and environmental
23 studies programs; and

1 WHEREAS, Dr. Rich received an award from the Miriam K.
2 Mills Research Center for Super-Optimizing Analysis and
3 Developing Nations in 1996 that best encapsulates his career,
4 which reads as follows, "The Thomas Jefferson Award for
5 outstanding contributions to promoting free speech, due
6 process, and merit treatment, also democratic governance and
7 ethical interaction to Robert Rich, political science
8 superstar."; and

9 WHEREAS, As the inaugural recipient in 1993, Dr. Rich was
10 most proud of receiving the Robert F. Rich Research Award from
11 the World Federation for Mental Health Scientific Committee on
12 Mental Health Needs of Victims; he also received the 2004
13 University of Illinois Campus Faculty Award for Excellence in
14 Public Engagement, the Emil Limbach Teaching Award from
15 Carnegie Mellon University School of Urban and Public Affairs
16 for "Excellence in the Classroom", and the Aaron Wildavsky
17 Enduring Contribution Award from the American Political
18 Science Association for the best publication in policy studies
19 for "Utilization of Policy Research", a chapter in the
20 Encyclopedia of Policy Studies (Second Edition) that he
21 co-authored with Cheol H. Oh; and

22 WHEREAS, Dr. Rich enjoyed reading, fishing, games, going
23 to the beach, and spending time with his family; he cheered on
24 the Illini and the Chicago Cubs and was incredibly proud of his

1 children and grandchildren, bragging about their
2 accomplishments at every opportunity; one of his favorite
3 titles was grandpa or "Opa"; he loved engaging with his
4 grandchildren in whatever way made them laugh, and his deep
5 love for his family endures in the love they show each other;
6 and

7 WHEREAS, Dr. Rich is survived by his wife of 48 years,
8 Lucy; his children, Rebecca (Matthew), Rachel Zara (Mark), and
9 Max (Elizabeth); his grandchildren, Joseph, Nelia, and Adele;
10 and his brother, Dennis (Elizabeth); therefore, be it

11 RESOLVED, BY THE SENATE OF THE ONE HUNDRED SECOND GENERAL
12 ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, that we mourn the passing of
13 Robert F. Rich, Ph.D and extend our sincere condolences to his
14 family, friends, and all who knew and loved him; and be it
15 further

16 RESOLVED, That a suitable copy of this resolution be
17 presented to the family of Dr. Rich as an expression of our
18 deepest sympathy.