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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 James Paul Biggers of Springfield, who passed away on November 15, 2022; and

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WHEREAS, Paul Biggers was born in Rayborn, Missouri to Ervin Paul Aaron and Rhoda (Longwell) Biggers on December 2, 1938; he graduated from the University of Illinois with a degree in civil engineering; he married Ruth West in Springfield on November 18, 2012; and

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WHEREAS, Paul Biggers worked for 25 years for the Illinois Department of Transportation in Carbondale and Springfield; after retiring, he worked as an environmental consultant for the Johnson, Depp, & Quisenberry Consulting Engineering Firm in Owensboro, Kentucky; and

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WHEREAS, Paul Biggers was a lifelong steward of the Earth; he held past presidencies and leadership roles with The Audubon Society of Southern Illinois, Green Earth, and the Lincoln Memorial Garden and Nature Center; he was co-founder of the Southern Illinois Bird Observatory, an avid birder, and coordinator of the Jackson County Bird Count; and

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WHEREAS, Paul Biggers also served in leadership roles with

1 the Illinois Jaycees and the Elks and was Scoutmaster of Troop  
2 #68 with the Boy Scouts of America; one of his proudest and  
3 most recognized accomplishments was as chairman of the 1968  
4 Carbondale Memorial Day Celebration, when he was bestowed a  
5 Meritorious Service Award and was recognized for his services  
6 rendered to the State of Illinois in celebration of its 150th  
7 year of statehood by the Illinois Sesquicentennial Commission;  
8 and

9 WHEREAS, Paul Biggers' love of music ran the gamut of all  
10 genres; his passion ranged from classical music with a  
11 penchant for all things Beethoven to the country and ballad  
12 likes of Tennessee Ernie Ford; he sang in the church choir and  
13 enjoyed the time he spent as a member of The Capital City Men's  
14 Chorus; and

15 WHEREAS, Paul Biggers is survived by his wife, Ruth; his  
16 daughter, Patty Tate and son-in-law, Larry; his sons, Mike  
17 Biggers and daughter-in-law, Debbie, Mark Biggers and  
18 daughter-in-law, Julie, and Brian Biggers and daughter-in-law,  
19 Lisa; his grandchildren, Kimberly (Curt) Hagarty, Megan  
20 (Peter) Hagedorn, Whitney (Scott) Richards, Jeremiah (Jessica)  
21 Biggers, Luke (Stacy) Biggers, Keith McComas, Sean Ashwell,  
22 David (Julie Chapman) Ashwell, Jennifer (Ryan Mallon) Ashwell,  
23 Jonah Biggers, and Blake Biggers; his great-grandchildren,  
24 Addison Hagarty, Agatha Hagedorn, Karson Richards, Logan

1 Richards, Allyson Biggers, Morgan Biggers, Nolan Biggers, Ana  
2 Reed, Odin Biggers, Wyatt Biggers, Brandon McComas, and  
3 Patrick Mallon; his siblings, Julie (Edd) Sterchi and Jim  
4 (Connie) Gilbert; and many nieces, nephews, other relatives,  
5 and friends; therefore, be it

6 RESOLVED, BY THE SENATE OF THE ONE HUNDRED SECOND GENERAL  
7 ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, that we mourn the passing of  
8 James Paul Biggers and extend our sincere condolences to his  
9 family, friends, and all who knew and loved him; and be it  
10 further

11 RESOLVED, That a suitable copy of this resolution be  
12 presented to the family of Paul Biggers as an expression of our  
13 deepest sympathy.