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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 John Alan Woodruff, who passed away on September 10, 2023; and

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WHEREAS, John Woodruff was born in Carlinville to William Verness and Mary (Parker) Woodruff on February 1, 1939; he grew up in Carlinville, where he enjoyed the outdoors; he was a High School All-American in football, threw the discus and shot put, and participated in band and chorus activities; he played football for one year at the University of Illinois in Urbana-Champaign and graduated as a field biology major from Southern Illinois University at Alton in 1963; he married Judith Colleen VanPelt on November 9, 1963; and

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WHEREAS, John Woodruff started his career as a textbook editor/writer for a high school publishing company; he later became a mainframe computer specialist and, after years of programming and system design, went into management and consulting; he worked in both the public and private sectors for over 40 years; and

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WHEREAS, John Woodruff oversaw many of the early efforts to consolidate computers while working for the State of Illinois, including the establishment of the data processing

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1 department of the new Department of Alcoholism and Substance  
2 Abuse and development of several PC-based systems for the  
3 Illinois State Board of Education; in addition, he was an  
4 assistant professor in the business school at Sangamon State  
5 University (now UIS) and an adjunct professor at Lincoln Land  
6 Community College, specializing in system development and  
7 business management; and

8 WHEREAS, John Woodruff was actively involved in the  
9 Springfield theater scene; he was on stage at Springfield's  
10 Muni 15 times in 14 years; he played Amos Hart in Springfield's  
11 original production of Chicago and was known as Mr.  
12 Cellophane; after he and Judy built their dream log home in  
13 rural New Berlin in 1993, he concentrated more on Theater in  
14 the Park and venues in Jacksonville; ultimately, he got into  
15 directing local productions, including Carousel, Seven Brides  
16 for Seven Brothers, and others; he restaged the epic poem John  
17 Brown's Body for the modern theater and wrote and directed  
18 three successful plays, Civil War Journeys, Drummer Girl, and  
19 Baltimore Plot; he was a member of a local storytellers group,  
20 loved to write short, two-person plays, and was fascinated by  
21 history and family ancestry; and

22 WHEREAS, John Woodruff was an avid hunter and fisherman, a  
23 competitive bass fisherman, and a proud member of Ducks  
24 Unlimited, the NRA, and the Capitol City Men's Chorus; he

1 enjoyed golfing and had great respect for the environment and  
2 the conservation of natural resources; and

3 WHEREAS, John Woodruff is survived by his wife, Judith;  
4 his son, Jim Woodruff; his daughter, Beth (Bob) Paton; and his  
5 grandchildren, Tim Paton, Andy (Lydia) Paton, Bailey Woodruff,  
6 Parker Woodruff, and Riley Woodruff; therefore, be it

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

12 RESOLVED, That a suitable copy of this resolution be  
13 presented to the family of John Woodruff as an expression of  
14 our deepest sympathy.