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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 Edward Ragsdale, M.D., who passed away on March 10, 2024; and

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WHEREAS, Dr. Ragsdale was born to Floyd and Elizabeth Ragsdale in Little Rock, Arkansas on March 24, 1939; he graduated first in his class from the University of Arkansas and then attended Washington University School of Medicine in St. Louis, where he specialized in radiology; he joined the U.S. Air Force in 1968, serving in active duty until 1970; he married Meredith Smith in 1968; and

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WHEREAS, Dr. Ragsdale joined the staff at Alton Memorial Hospital in 1970, where he became chairman of the Department of Radiology and was one of the hospital's longest-serving doctors; he was also medical director of the Twin Rivers MRI Center and was active as a frequent speaker and advocate in county and state medical societies; and

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WHEREAS, Dr. Ragsdale also worked diligently within Republican politics, serving as chairman of the Madison County Republican Party from 1976 to 1994 and chairman of the Alton-Godfrey-Foster County Republicans from 1995 to 2016; he was elected to serve as a delegate for Ronald Reagan at the

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1 Republican National Convention in both 1980 and 1984; and

2 WHEREAS, Dr. Ragsdale was well-known in the community of  
3 Alton, where he lived and worked for more than 50 years; his  
4 dedication, brilliance, and resourcefulness earned him a  
5 number of awards and recognitions, including a Lifetime  
6 Achievement Award from Alton Memorial Hospital in 2017; and

7 WHEREAS, Dr. Ragsdale loved medicine and politics, and he  
8 was also passionate about his 160-acre cattle farm; he enjoyed  
9 fishing, duck hunting, traveling, camping, and spending time  
10 in nature; and

11 WHEREAS, Dr. Ragsdale was a doctor, a politician, a  
12 farmer, a proud veteran, an Eagle Scout, and a friend to many;  
13 he will be remembered for his high-impact life; and

14 WHEREAS, Dr. Ragsdale was preceded in death by his  
15 parents; and

16 WHEREAS, Dr. Ragsdale is survived by his wife of 55 years,  
17 Meredith; his children, Lynda Davey, Alan Ragsdale, and  
18 Phillip Ragsdale; his son-in-law, Tim Davey; his  
19 daughter-in-law, Samantha Ragsdale; his grandchildren, Sam  
20 Davey, Sara Davey, Ava Ragsdale, and Tucker Ragsdale; his  
21 sister, Ellen Ann Hopkins; and his nephews, Jonathan Hopkins,

1 Beau Hopkins, and Cabell Hopkins; therefore, be it

2 RESOLVED, BY THE SENATE OF THE ONE HUNDRED THIRD GENERAL  
3 ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, that we mourn the passing of  
4 Edward Ragsdale, M.D. and extend our sincere condolences to  
5 his family, friends, and all who knew and loved him; and be it  
6 further

7 RESOLVED, That a suitable copy of this resolution be  
8 presented to the family of Dr. Ragsdale as an expression of our  
9 deepest sympathy.