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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 Rev. Dr. Edward William Bergstraesser of Oak Park, who passed away on February 25, 2009; and

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WHEREAS, Edward Bergstraesser was born on June 13, 1935; he earned his undergraduate degree from Elmhurst College in 1956; he went on to earn his Master of Divinity degree from the Union Theological Seminary in 1960 and his Doctor of Ministry degree from the Oberlin School of Theology/Vanderbilt Divinity School in 1969; he also received an Honorary Doctor of Divinity degree from Elmhurst College in 1991; and

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WHEREAS, During and after his graduate studies, Edward Bergstraesser served with urban churches in Ohio and Chicago and suburban churches in Rhode Island, Elmhurst, and Oak Park; he retired in 2000 after 20 years of service as senior pastor of the First United Church of Oak Park; and

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WHEREAS, After his retirement, Edward Bergstraesser and his wife remained in Oak Park and became active volunteers; the couple volunteered for the Advocate Health Care System, the Community Renewal Society of Chicago, and the Lifelink Corporation in Bensenville; Mr. Bergstraesser was also an active member of the Elmhurst College Alumni Association and

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1 the National Church Associates of the UCC; and

2 WHEREAS, Edward Bergstraesser is survived by his beloved
3 wife of 48 years, Carole; his sons, Edward and Paul (Michelle);
4 his grandchildren, Amy, Jenna, and William; and his sister,
5 Betty (Dan) Peters; therefore, be it

6 RESOLVED, BY THE SENATE OF THE NINETY-SIXTH GENERAL
7 ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, that we mourn, along with
8 his family and friends, the passing of Rev. Dr. Edward William
9 Bergstraesser; and be it further

10 RESOLVED, That a suitable copy of this resolution be
11 presented to the family of Edward Bergstraesser as an
12 expression of our sympathy.