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HOUSE RESOLUTION

WHEREAS, The members of the Illinois House of Representatives are saddened to learn of the death of Robert G. Kirchner of Urbana, who passed away on April 17, 2011; and

WHEREAS, Robert Kirchner was born on June 23, 1956, in Joliet; his parents were Robert and Margaret (Keyser) Kirchner; he grew up in New Lenox; and

WHEREAS, Robert Kirchner attended Western Illinois University, earning his Bachelor's degree in philosophy and political science in 1976 and his Master's degree in political science in 1977; while in college, he met his future wife, Gerri; they married August 25, 1979, in Park Ridge; he later attended the University of Illinois College of Law, and earned his law degree in 1982; and

WHEREAS, After earning his law degree, he joined the Champaign law practice of Burt Greaves and Art Lerner, which became Greaves, Lerner and Kirchner, and later, Lerner and Kirchner; in 2004, he opened his own law office in Champaign; he argued many cases before the appellate courts and the Illinois Supreme Court, winning several cases that established legal precedents; he was well known among his peers as a champion of numerous legal causes that other attorneys would

1 not take; and

2 WHEREAS, He ran as a Democratic candidate for State
3 Representative in 1996; despite losing the election, his
4 campaign engaged public participation by hosting a series of
5 monthly symposiums on key issues impacting State legislation,
6 including education funding, crime, drug abuse, gun control,
7 child welfare, women's rights, health care, employment laws,
8 and campaign finance reform; and

9 WHEREAS, Robert Kirchner served on the Champaign County
10 Board as the District 9 representative, appointed in 2001 and
11 elected in 2002 to a 2-year term; as a member of the board, he
12 voted to pass laws to guarantee a living wage for all full-time
13 county employees, prohibit employment discrimination on the
14 basis of race, gender, or sexual orientation, and establish
15 free dental care for low-income children; he served as chair of
16 the county nursing home sub-committee and worked on the
17 successful passage of the referendum proposal to fund its
18 construction; and

19 WHEREAS, Robert Kirchner served as Vice President of the
20 Champaign County Bar Association from 1994 to 1995; in 1994, he
21 helped establish Best Interest of Children, a local non-profit
22 organization dedicated to child and family advocacy, and served
23 on the organization's board; and

1 WHEREAS, He was an avid softball player, and enjoyed
2 volleyball, bocce ball, bowling, ping pong, bridge, hearts,
3 pinochle, poker, and other games; and

4 WHEREAS, Robert Kirchner is survived by his wife of 32
5 years, Gerri; his sisters, Marlene (Dennis) Gallagher and
6 Lorrie (Robert) Chaplin; his brothers, John (Carol) Burkhart,
7 Ron (Laura) Kirchner, and David Kirchner; his brother-in-law,
8 Paul (Sue) Geissler; his sister-in-law, Shelly (Paul) Kotecki;
9 his 4 nephews; and his 7 nieces; therefore, be it

10 RESOLVED, BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE
11 NINETY-SEVENTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, that
12 we mourn, along with his family and friends, the passing of
13 Robert Kirchner; and be it further

14 RESOLVED, That a suitable copy of this resolution be
15 presented to the family of Robert Kirchner as an expression of
16 our sympathy.