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1 SENATE RESOLUTION

2 WHEREAS, The members of the Illinois Senate are saddened to
3 learn of the death of Arthur H. DeKruyter; and

4 WHEREAS, Arthur DeKruyter grew up in Grand Rapids,
5 Michigan, where he attended Calvin College and Calvin
6 Theological Seminary; and

7 WHEREAS, After completing his graduate work at Princeton
8 University, Arthur DeKruyter accepted the call of a church in
9 Western Springs, where he served as pastor for over 13 years;
10 in 1965, he was called to the burgeoning community of Oak Brook
11 to found a new church with only 5 families; in just a few
12 years, the church grew to fill the Butler School gymnasium;
13 subsequently, the new church building at York and 31st Street,
14 seating 1,200 people, was dedicated and filled to capacity on
15 Easter Sunday in 1970; and

16 WHEREAS, In 1951, Arthur DeKruyter began broadcasting
17 weekly to the Chicago area through radio - a pioneering
18 ministry that, in 1980, led to the Pulpit of Christ Church
19 program on area television; and

20 WHEREAS, Arthur DeKruyter was the author of several books,
21 including 1985's "Journey into Joy", and co-authored "The

1 Suburban Church: Practical Advice for Authentic Ministry" with
2 Quentin J. Schultze; his popular sermon series, titled "Basic
3 Christianity", was translated into Mandarin, published, and
4 has been distributed to over 150,000 people throughout China
5 over the past several years; and

6 WHEREAS, Arthur DeKruyter has been a member of numerous
7 theological organizations, including the Board of Trustees of
8 Fuller Theological Seminary in Pasadena, California; he was the
9 Founding Board Chair of Trinity Christian College in Palos
10 Heights; he was the Founder of the St. Petersburg Theological
11 Seminary in St. Petersburg, Russia; he was the Co-Founder and
12 Chaplain Emeritus of the Executives Breakfast Club of Oak
13 Brook; he has also served on the Board of Trustees of the
14 O'Hare International Airport Interfaith Chapel, the Council of
15 Religious Leaders of Metropolitan Chicago, and the Advisory
16 Council of the Chicago Sunday Evening Club; and

17 WHEREAS, Arthur DeKruyter was the recipient of numerous
18 professional honors, including the 1996 Gutenberg Award; the
19 establishment of the Arthur DeKruyter/Christ Church of Oak
20 Brook Chair of Preaching at Fuller Theological Seminary;
21 recognition as the first recipient of the annual Paul Butler
22 Achievement Award for leadership; selection as one of the Ten
23 Outstanding Preachers in the Chicago area by the Chicago
24 Tribune in 1981; and, most recently, the founding of the Arthur

1 H. DeKruyter Chair in Faith and Communication at Calvin College
2 in Grand Rapids; and

3 WHEREAS, Arthur DeKruyter was a loving husband to his late
4 wife, Gladys, for 57 years; he was also the wonderful father to
5 his daughter, Lucette, and her husband, Thomas Bamford; the
6 beloved grandfather of Arthur and Tab and his wife, Kristin;
7 and the great-grandfather of Matt and Bobby; therefore, be it

8 RESOLVED, BY THE SENATE OF THE NINETY-SEVENTH GENERAL
9 ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, that we mourn, along with
10 his family and friends, the passing of Arthur H. DeKruyter; and
11 be it further

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