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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 Richard Salisbury Williamson of Kenilworth, who passed away on December 8, 2013; and

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WHEREAS, Richard Williamson was born in 1949 in Evanston; he graduated from New Trier Township High School in Winnetka and received his Bachelor of Arts in Religion and Philosophy from Princeton University, where he was President of his senior class, and his Juris Doctor from the University of Virginia Law School, where he was executive editor of the Virginia Journal of International Law; he married Jane Thatcher; and

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WHEREAS, Richard Williamson had a long and distinguished career in public service at the local, state, national, and international level; he served 3 presidents in various senior policy positions: Assistant to the President for Intergovernmental Affairs for Ronald Reagan, Assistant Secretary of State for International Organizations at the State Department for George H.W. Bush, and for George W. Bush, Ambassador to the United Nations for Political Affairs, Ambassador to the United Nations Commission on Human Rights, and as the President's Special Envoy to Sudan; and

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WHEREAS, Richard Williamson dedicated his life to

1 promoting human rights and democracy all over the world, and he  
2 was active in many organizations that shared his mission such  
3 as the Brookings Institution, the Chicago Council of Global  
4 Affairs, the Center for New American Security, Freedom House,  
5 the McCain Institute for Leadership, the International  
6 Republican Institute, and a United Nations Non-Governmental  
7 Organization dedicated to the advancement of democracy across  
8 the globe; and

9 WHEREAS, Richard Williamson was an adjunct professor at  
10 Northwestern University and authored several books and  
11 articles on democracy and the protection of human rights; he  
12 also served as chair of the Illinois Republican Party; and

13 WHEREAS, Richard Williamson is survived by his wife of 40  
14 years, Jane; his children, Elisabeth Graham (Ryan), Craig  
15 Salisbury, and Richard Middleton (Sara); his granddaughter,  
16 Cora Jane; his brother, Bruce (Alice); his sister, Barb (Erv);  
17 and 10 nieces and nephews; therefore, be it

18 RESOLVED, BY THE SENATE OF THE NINETY-EIGHTH GENERAL  
19 ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, that we mourn the passing of  
20 Richard Salisbury Williamson, and extend our sincere  
21 condolences to his family, friends, and all who knew and loved  
22 him; and be it further

1           RESOLVED, That a suitable copy of this resolution be  
2 presented to the family of Richard Williamson as an expression  
3 of our deepest sympathy.