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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 W. Charles Witte of Bloomington, who passed away on April 10, 2016; and

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WHEREAS, W. Charles Witte was born on September 21, 1941 in Chicago; his parents were Dr. William B. and Caroline Hess Witte; he married Donna Vera Skrinskus on October 12, 1968; and

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WHEREAS, W. Charles Witte graduated from Bloomington High School in 1959; he was drafted in the United States Army in 1966, graduated from the United States Army Officer Candidate School in Fort Benning, Georgia in 1967, and served as an Intelligence Officer in Vietnam from 1967 to 1968, where he taught English to Vietnamese school teachers, and taught interrogation at the United States Army Intelligence School in Fort Holabird, Maryland from 1968 to 1969; he graduated from Illinois State University in 1971, where he served as President of the Student Body from 1970 to 1971 and initiated the Student Legal Services Program; he later received his Juris Doctor from the University of Baltimore School of Law in 1975; he was also a 1980 graduate of the National Judicial College and a 1982 graduate of the National College of Juvenile and Family Court Judges; and

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1 WHEREAS, After college, W. Charles Witte returned to
2 Bloomington and practiced law with the firm of Pratt, Larkin,
3 Witte, and Sternberg, P.C. from 1975 until he was appointed
4 Associate Circuit Judge in December of 1978; he was
5 subsequently elected as McLean County Resident Circuit Judge in
6 November of 1988 and retained as a Circuit Judge in 1994 and
7 2000; he retired from the bench in December of 2001; and

8 WHEREAS, W. Charles Witte was appointed by the Illinois
9 Supreme Court to chair the state-wide Judicial Education
10 Conference from 1986 to 1988; he served as faculty member for
11 numerous Judicial Conference and Illinois State Bar
12 Association Education Programs; he was a member of the
13 American, Illinois, and McLean County Bar Associations and the
14 Illinois Trial Lawyers Association; he was also a founding
15 member and President (2000-2001) of the Robert C. Underwood
16 American Inn of Court; and

17 WHEREAS, In 1980, W. Charles Witte developed and for 20
18 years taught a Criminal Justice Education Program for over
19 1,800 sixth grade students visiting his courtroom each year;
20 the presentation has been used as a model by other judicial
21 circuits; and

22 WHEREAS, W. Charles Witte was an active Bloomington Kiwanis
23 Club member for 38 years, serving as the organization's

1 President in 1985 and 1986 and the recipient of the George F.
2 Hixon Award in 1998; he served as a member of the BroMenn
3 Healthcare Board of Directors for 9 years and was the
4 organization's Chairman from 2000 to 2003; he served as a
5 member of the Bloomington Country Club Board of Directors for 6
6 years; he served on the Illinois State University Foundation
7 Board for 19 years and was the organization's Vice-Chair from
8 1982 to 1988; he served on the ISU Alumni Association Board for
9 20 years and was the organization's President from 1975 to
10 1977; he also served on the Bloomington Fire and Police
11 Commission from 2008 to 2015 and a board member of the Illinois
12 Wesleyan Associates; and

13 WHEREAS, W. Charles Witte was awarded the E. Burton Mercier
14 Alumni Service Award in 1998 and was inducted into the BHS Hall
15 of Fame in 2007; and

16 WHEREAS, W. Charles Witte was a member of Second
17 Presbyterian Church for over 50 years; he served as an usher,
18 trustee, elder, and senior high camp counselor; he also served
19 as a board member of the Immanuel Bible Foundation for over 20
20 years and was the organization's President from 2005 to 2011;
21 and

22 WHEREAS, W. Charles Witte was an avid cyclist and enjoyed
23 countless rides with his friends, including the Youstabees; he

1 looked forward to meeting every week with his Wednesday morning
2 breakfast group; he also loved living in and taking care of
3 Spring Ridge and spending time with his grandchildren; and

4 WHEREAS, W. Charles Witte was preceded in death by his
5 parents; his brother, Dr. Craig H. Witte; and his sister, Jo
6 Karyl Berens; and

7 WHEREAS, W. Charles Witte is survived by his wife, Donna;
8 his daughters, Drs. Alison Jane (Keith Anthony) Gildehaus and
9 Elizabeth Ann (Joseph Donald) Edmondson; his grandchildren,
10 Katelyn Reese, Emerson Lane Gildehaus, and William David and
11 John Charles Edmondson; his nephews, Christopher (Beckie)
12 Witte and Adam (Candice Smith) Witte; his nieces, Sally Berens
13 (Ryan Postma) and their children, Dries and Silas, Nelltj
14 (Brian) Prosise, and Abra Berens (Erik Hall); and his
15 brother-in-law, Dr. Lee Berens; therefore, be it

16 RESOLVED, BY THE SENATE OF THE NINETY-NINTH GENERAL
17 ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, that we, along with his
18 family and friends, mourn the passing of W. Charles Witte; and
19 be it further

20 RESOLVED, That a suitable copy of this resolution be
21 presented to the family of W. Charles Witte as an expression of
22 our sympathy.