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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 Melvin Thomas "Tom" Davisson, P.E., Ph.D. of Urbana, who passed away on September 9, 2016; and

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WHEREAS, Melvin Davisson was born on December 23, 1931 in Grafton, West Virginia; his parents were David Earl Davisson and Leona Caroline Davisson; he married Marlene Elaine Krumeich on May 14, 1955 at St. Joseph Catholic Church in Cuyahoga Falls, Ohio; and

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WHEREAS, Melvin Davisson received his bachelor's degree in civil engineering from the University of Akron and a Master of Science and a Ph.D. in civil engineering from the University of Illinois; he began his career at the University of Illinois as a research assistant in 1956 and moved through the academic ranks to a full professorship in 1971; and

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WHEREAS, From 1981 to 2000, Melvin Davisson devoted his time to the engineering consulting practice he established in 1958; he was a geotechnical consulting engineer with a distinguished record as a researcher, designer, educator, and member of numerous professional societies; he served on and chaired many committees of various professional organizations with which he was associated; he also taught continuing

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1 education courses and was an arbitrator for engineering and  
2 construction disputes; and

3 WHEREAS, Melvin Davisson published many professional  
4 papers and designed and improved specialized construction  
5 equipment; he is particularly noted for "The Davisson Limit", a  
6 widespread definition of pile failure load; he received many  
7 national and international awards for his work on pile driving,  
8 including the Distinguished Service Award from the Deep  
9 Foundations Institute; and

10 WHEREAS, Melvin Davisson enjoyed spending time with his  
11 family, reading, fishing, golfing, and teaching; he also had a  
12 private pilot license and flew his own plane; and

13 WHEREAS, Melvin Davisson was preceded in death by his  
14 parents; his daughter, Teresa Lynn Christensen; and his  
15 half-sister, Elizabeth Jean (Kenneth) Smith; and

16 WHEREAS, Melvin Davisson is survived by his wife of 61  
17 years, Marlene "Mickey"; his son, James Preston "J.P."  
18 Davisson; his daughters, Diana Marie Davisson and Kathleen  
19 Elaine Davisson; his son-in-law, Rex Alan Christensen; his  
20 step-grandchildren, Andrea Gibbs Christensen and Stephanie  
21 Brook Purvis (John); and his step-great-grandchildren, Sophia  
22 and John; therefore, be it

1           RESOLVED, BY THE SENATE OF THE NINETY-NINTH GENERAL  
2 ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, that we, along with his  
3 family and friends, mourn the passing of Melvin Thomas "Tom"  
4 Davisson; and be it further

5           RESOLVED, That a suitable copy of this resolution be  
6 presented to the family of Melvin Davisson as an expression of  
7 our sympathy.