



SR1061

LRB100 15450 ALS 30452 r

1

SENATE RESOLUTION

2

WHEREAS, The members of the Illinois Senate are saddened to learn of the death of Thomas M. Burrus of Arenzville, who passed away on October 28, 2017; and

3

4

5

WHEREAS, Tom Burrus was born in Jacksonville to Martin Gayle and Jeanette (Sullivan) Burrus on July 13, 1949; he graduated from Illinois College in 1971; he married Marcy Bramley at the First Presbyterian Church in Divernon on February 2, 1969; and

6

7

8

9

10

WHEREAS, Tom Burrus spent his career at Burrus Seed, Inc., where he began working after his graduation from college; he was currently serving as President of Burrus Brothers & Associated Growers; and

11

12

13

14

WHEREAS, Tom Burrus was actively involved in his local community, as well as the seed industry; he served on several boards, including two terms as a Board Member and former President of Independent Professional Seed Association (IPSA), Illinois Crop Improvement Association, and Illinois Foundation Seed, Inc., of which he was also Board Chairman for six years; additionally, he served two terms on the Passavant Area Hospital Board of Directors, a five-year term as an Illinois College Alumni Trustee, and a Trustee for the Gamma Nu Literary

15

16

17

18

19

20

21

22

1 Society; he was a commissioner of the Coon Run Drainage
2 District; he also served in many capacities at the Arenzville
3 United Methodist Church; and

4 WHEREAS, Tom Burrus was recognized for his dedication to
5 the independent seed industry and received numerous accolades,
6 including the 2010 IPSA Industry Service Award, an Honorary
7 Life Member Award from the Illinois Seed Trade Association, and
8 induction into the Jacksonville Area Chamber of Commerce
9 Agri-Industry Hall of Fame; he was also an ardent supporter of
10 his alma mater, Illinois College; Tom, along with Marcy, was
11 named the 2016 Illinois College Homecoming Parade Marshall; he
12 also received the Young Alumni Award from the college in 1988;
13 and

14 WHEREAS, Tom Burrus lived his life with enthusiasm and
15 encouraged all; he loved conversation and had a genuine
16 interest in others; his compassion was apparent to family,
17 friends, employees, and even new acquaintances; his life was
18 exemplified by his strident support and unwavering advocacy of
19 the independent seed industry and the farmers they served; Tom
20 was known for putting the needs of the farmers first, and he
21 truly believed in the value of service and integrity; his
22 passion for the seed business was infectious; he will leave an
23 indelible mark on the industry that he loved; and

1 WHEREAS, Tom Burrus was preceded in death by his parents;
2 and his sister, Rebecca Oliver; and

3 WHEREAS, Tom Burrus is survived by his wife, Marcy; his
4 daughters, Lori (Tim) Greene and Gail (Chad) Mitchell; his
5 grandchildren, Griffin Greene, Gannon Greene, Taylor Mitchell,
6 and Pete Mitchell; his brother, Todd (Deb) Burrus; and his many
7 nieces and nephews; therefore, be it

8 RESOLVED, BY THE SENATE OF THE ONE HUNDREDTH GENERAL
9 ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, that we mourn the passing of
10 Thomas M. Burrus and extend our sincere condolences to his
11 family, friends, and all who knew and loved him; and be it
12 further

13 RESOLVED, That a suitable copy of this resolution be
14 presented to the family of Tom Burrus as an expression of our
15 deepest sympathy.