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SENATE RESOLUTION

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WHEREAS, The members of the Illinois Senate are saddened to learn about the death of Michael Anthony Werckle, M.D. of Rockford, who passed away on March 28, 2018; and

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WHEREAS, Dr. Werckle was born in Peoria to Winton Earl and Florine Yvonne (Carollo) Werckle on August 10, 1939; he graduated from Rockford East High School, with one of the first National Merit Scholarships, in 1957; he worked to pay his way through Cornell College in Mount Vernon, Iowa and graduated with his bachelor of arts degree in 1962; he then graduated from the University of Illinois College of Medicine in 1966; he completed his internship and residency through the University of Michigan at Wayne County General Hospital, where he quickly rose to the position of Director of the Outpatient Department and Long Term Care Facility; and

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WHEREAS, In 1973, Dr. Werckle returned to Illinois to serve as Associate Director of the Illinois Department of Public Health in Springfield, where he was instrumental in the effort to vaccinate school children during the outbreak of swine flu in 1976; he moved back to his hometown of Rockford in 1977, where he joined the faculty of the newly-formed University of Illinois College of Medicine as Assistant Clinical Professor of Medicine, a position he held until his passing; he opened North

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1 Alpine Medical Clinic, later Rockford Clinic on North Alpine,
2 in an underserved area in 1980; he practiced internal medicine
3 there, specializing in geriatrics, until his retirement in
4 2006; and

5 WHEREAS, Dr. Werckle received many awards and honors during
6 his life, including two Golden Apple Awards, a Faculty
7 Distinguished Service Award, the Arnold Gold Humanism in
8 Medicine Award, and the Endowed Professorship in Biomedical
9 Services in his name, which was made possible by a grant from
10 the Blazer Foundation; on March 28, 2018, he was honored by the
11 University of Illinois College of Medicine Rockford at the
12 investiture ceremony for the Michael A. Werckle, M.D. Endowed
13 Professorship in Biomedical Sciences; and

14 WHEREAS, Dr. Werckle served on many boards, including
15 Rockford Health System, Lifescape, Wesley Willows, and the
16 Visiting Nurses Association; he served as President of Medical
17 Staff at Rockford Memorial Hospital and was the Medical
18 Director of many organizations, including Rockford Clinic,
19 Fairhaven Christian Home, Willows on Main, Alpine Fireside, and
20 In Home Medical Service; in 2017, he became the majority owner
21 of Hospice Care of America, where he had served as Medical
22 Director since 2006; and

23 WHEREAS, Dr. Werckle was a lifelong member of Westminster

1 Presbyterian Church in Rockford, and he remembered carrying
2 bricks as a child for the construction of the church's
3 building; he was an avid fan of antique and vintage cars and
4 was active in many car clubs, including the Vintage Motor Car
5 Club of America and the Rock-Ford A's, serving as President of
6 both organizations; he enjoyed driving in classic car tours and
7 was known to make house calls to elderly patients in an antique
8 car of their choice; he will be remembered as a compassionate
9 physician, respected educator, and dedicated public servant,
10 who believed in the healing power of listening compassionately;
11 recalling his working class roots, he provided care to
12 everyone, regardless of their ability to pay; and

13 WHEREAS, Dr. Werckle was preceded in death by his parents;
14 his sister, Patricia Werckle Zeller; his stepparents, Ralph
15 Steele and Winifred Werckle; his grandparents; his aunts and
16 uncles; his cousin; his special friend, Cedric W. Blazer; and
17 his beloved Rottweilers, Lovie and Millie; and

18 WHEREAS, Dr. Werckle is survived by his wife, Patricia; his
19 children, Michael David Werckle, Elizabeth Ann Werckle, and
20 Sarah Kathryn (Matthew) Rip; his grandchildren, Anne Lee
21 Harris, Dashiell Michael Rip, and Lincoln Russell Rip; his
22 sister, Jacqueline (Werckle) White; his brothers, W. David
23 (Sara) Werckle and Richard L. (Linda) Werckle; his special
24 cousin, Joseph Broz; his special friend, Mark R. Blazer; his 18

1 nieces and nephews; his four cousins; and his grand-dog,
2 "Dad."; therefore, be it

3 RESOLVED, BY THE SENATE OF THE ONE HUNDREDTH GENERAL
4 ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, that we mourn the passing of
5 Michael Anthony Werckle, M.D. and extend our sincere
6 condolences to his family, friends, and all who knew and loved
7 him; and be it further

8 RESOLVED, That a suitable copy of this resolution be
9 presented to the family of Dr. Werckle as an expression of our
10 deepest sympathy.