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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 Preston F. "Pres" Helgren of Gurnee, who passed away on March 14, 2018; and

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WHEREAS, Pres Helgren was born in Waukegan to Fred and Esther Helgren on June 30, 1926; always a lover of music, he had a fine tenor voice, and he played the clarinet in high school; he graduated from the University of Wisconsin Madison with a degree in chemistry, where he played in the band under the direction of Ray Dvorak; and

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WHEREAS, Pres Helgren worked at Carnation in Milwaukee and then spent the rest of his career as a research chemist at Abbott Laboratories, where he was a specialist in gas chromatography and amino acid analysis; while at Abbott, he met Helen Efinger, a fellow chemist, and they celebrated 58 years of marriage; and

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WHEREAS, Pres Helgren was a lifelong member of Christ Church in Waukegan, where he sang in the choir, served on Vestry, and was a member of the Christ Care group; because of his work as a volunteer for Elder Care at Christ Church, he was named Senior Citizen of the Year by the Lake County Council for Seniors; and

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1 WHEREAS, Pres Helgren had many interests; he inherited a
2 love of gardening from his parents and was known for his
3 perfect yard, beautiful rose garden, and productive vegetable
4 garden and orchard; he and Helen were also passionate about
5 prairies and recreated prairie landscapes around the Gurnee
6 area; he collected antique cars and was active in the Waukegan
7 Chapter of the Antique Automobile Club of America, where he
8 served as president of the chapter and was on the Illinois
9 Region Board; he and Helen enjoyed traveling the country and
10 attending car meets; he eventually won the top prize, a grand
11 national award, with his 1933 Chevrolet; he was a voracious
12 reader, a die hard fan of the Wisconsin Badgers, and an avid
13 golfer; he generously supported the causes he held dear: the
14 environment, the less fortunate, education, and the arts; and

15 WHEREAS, Pres Helgren was preceded in death by his parents;
16 his wife, Helen; two of his daughters in infancy; his sister,
17 Mary Ellen Johnson; and his niece, Susan Johnson; and

18 WHEREAS, Pres Helgren is survived by his son, Daniel
19 (Elizabeth) Helgren; his daughter, Mary Catherine (Richard
20 Radek) Helgren; his step-children, Zachary Noah and Madeline
21 Rose; his nephews, Preston and Peter Johnson; and his best
22 friend, Eileen Graham; therefore, be it

1 RESOLVED, BY THE SENATE OF THE ONE HUNDREDTH GENERAL
2 ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, that we mourn the passing of
3 Preston F. "Pres" Helgren and extend our sincere condolences to
4 his family, friends, and all who knew and loved him; and be it
5 further

6 RESOLVED, That a suitable copy of this resolution be
7 presented to the family of Pres Helgren as an expression of our
8 deepest sympathy.