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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 Charles E. Finn of Champaign, who passed away on December 8, 2018; and

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WHEREAS, Charles Finn was born in Paxton to Earnest and Jessie Finn on June 10, 1933; he was raised and educated in Gibson City and graduated from Gibson City High School in 1951; he was a member of the National Honor Society and participated in football, basketball, track, and drama; he graduated from the University of Illinois in 1955 and was a member of the Sigma Pi fraternity; he was also the varsity football senior manager under coach Ray Elliott and a member of the Tribe of Illini and the Sachem Honor Society; he received the MaWanDa Honorary Activities Award, was one of the top 100 Senior Men, was the house treasurer of the Sigma Pi fraternity, and was a member of the Student Senate; while a senior at the University of Illinois, he married Blanche Marie Faikus and also served as the assistant secretary of the Aurora Chamber of Commerce; and

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WHEREAS, Charles Finn served in the United States Army Reserves as a captain in the ARMOR Division; he received a commendation medal in 1958; and

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WHEREAS, Charles Finn joined the family business, Finn

1 Furniture, in Gibson City; he was then hired by Kroehler
2 Furniture Company as a salesman and sales manager; he later
3 went to work for the Alan White Corporation as the vice
4 president of Midwest sales; he returned to Kroehler Furniture
5 as the national account manager and corporate vice president
6 and general manager of the southwest region of the United
7 States; in 1982, he went to work at Flexsteel Industries as
8 vice president and then as sales manager at Cleveland Chair
9 Company; he finally started his own marketing company,
10 Professional Furniture Marketing with Bob O'Meara and
11 continued to direct sales and merchandising until he retired at
12 the age of 75; and

13 WHEREAS, Charles Finn was a philanthropist and supporter of
14 the University of Illinois; he donated to funds for
15 scholarships for business majors at the College of Business and
16 the Dike Eddleman Scholarship Fund and also for the indoor
17 football practice field and the equipment room; and

18 WHEREAS, Charles Finn's University of Illinois alumni
19 experiences included being a member of the President's Council
20 U of I Foundation in 1989, a member of the Business Activity
21 Council and Dean's Business Council from 1995 until 2011, and
22 the College of Business chairman from 2003 until 2006; he was a
23 supporter of the I Fund and a member of the Loyalty Circle for
24 ten years; he received the William E. Winter Award from the U

1 of I Foundation for National Advocacy in 2002, the U of I
2 Alumni Association Loyalty Service Award in 2004, and the
3 Varsity I Man of the Year Award through the DIA in 2005; he
4 received the College of Business Alumni Association
5 Appreciation Award at the Spring Chicago Luncheon in 2013; and

6 WHEREAS, Charles Finn was a historian of "The Galloping
7 Ghost" Red Grange's life story and commissioned a screenplay to
8 promote the making of a feature film; in 2013, he wrote a play
9 titled "Red Grange Comes to the Virginia Theater," which was
10 produced and performed as a fundraiser to buy a new projector
11 for the theater; and

12 WHEREAS, In recognition for his service to the Virginia
13 Theater, Charles Finn was selected as honorary commissioner for
14 the Champaign Park District in 2013; from 2006 until 2017, he
15 served as chairman of the Finance Committee of Savoy United
16 Methodist Church, and, during that time, the church paid off
17 its mortgage; he was a member of the Champaign/Urbana Noon
18 Kiwanis Club and served as president from 2017 until 2018; on
19 December 7, 2018, he was presented the Kiwanian of the Year
20 Award; he was a loving husband to his wife and a role model for
21 his children; he taught them to live life to the fullest,
22 follow their dreams, and to never give up; and

23 WHEREAS, Charles Finn is survived by his wife, Blanche; his

1 son, Steven Charles Finn; his daughter, Pamela Finn Trueblood;
2 his ex-son-in-law, Steven David Trueblood; his grandson,
3 Robert Steven Finn; his granddaughter, Jennifer Marie
4 Trueblood; and his cousins, Maxine Stroh, Ray Stroh, and Anita
5 Lahr; therefore, be it

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

11 RESOLVED, That a suitable copy of this resolution be
12 presented to the family of Charles Finn as an expression of our
13 deepest sympathy.