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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 B. Don Rankin of Arcola, who passed away on October 25, 2019; and

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WHEREAS, Don Rankin was born in Princeton, Missouri to William Harrison and Mary Zella Busby Rankin on June 6, 1943; he attended schools in Ravanna, Missouri, where he graduated high school in 1961; he graduated from Northeast Missouri State University (Truman State University) in 1965, where he was a member of the Blue Key Honor Society and president of the Sigma Tau Gamma Fraternity; and

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WHEREAS, Don Rankin taught high school and college prep English at Benton Community High School in Van Horne, Iowa, until he began his career in publishing as an editor with the Webb Publishing Company in Minneapolis, Minnesota; he and his wife, Linda, purchased the Arcola Record Herald newspaper and a small trade magazine for broom manufacturers, the Broom and Broom Corn News, in 1977 and began the Rankin Publishing Company; he and Linda and their sons moved to Arcola in December of 1977, where he was a proud citizen and community supporter; and

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WHEREAS, Don Rankin owned and published the Record Herald

1 for 25 years, where his column, The Rankin File, was a favorite
2 of readers; he and Linda added the trade magazines Maintenance
3 Sales News, Busline, and Discover Central Illinois to the
4 company and expanded the Broom and Broom Corn News into the
5 Broom Brush and Mop magazine; during that time, they also owned
6 and published The Arthur Graphic-Clarion, the Oakland
7 newspapers, and the Free Press; in 2000, the decision was made
8 for Rankin Publishing to focus entirely on its trade magazines,
9 and that business and its dedicated staff continue to publish
10 these magazines from Arcola; and

11 WHEREAS, Don Rankin was on the board of the Arcola
12 Foundation for 30 years, serving as its vice president; he and
13 Linda were named grand marshals of the Arcola Broom Corn
14 Festival in 2016; and

15 WHEREAS, Don Rankin and Linda were lifelong members of the
16 United Methodist Church, and he served the Arcola United
17 Methodist Church as a representative on various committees and
18 boards throughout the years; he was a past president of the
19 Arcola Chamber of Commerce and The Arcola Sports Boosters; he
20 was a member of the Arcola Music Boosters and other community
21 organizations and a willing volunteer for community events; and

22 WHEREAS, Don Rankin was the grandfather of Sophia Zella
23 Rankin, Cale Squires, Madison Rankin, and Caden Rankin; he was

1 brother-in-law to Dr. Richard Jaspers (Joyce), Keith Jaspers
2 (Karen), and Marcia Jaspers Hollatz (Richard) and a special
3 uncle to his nieces and nephews; and

4 WHEREAS, Don Rankin is survived by his wife of 50 years,
5 Linda Jane Jaspers; his sons, William Jason (Sarah) and Donald
6 Chase (Lynn) Rankin; and his brother, Dr. W. Dale (Nancy)
7 Rankin; therefore, be it

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

12 RESOLVED, That a suitable copy of this resolution be
13 presented to the family of Don Rankin as an expression of our
14 deepest sympathy.