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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 Robert "Bob" Shelton Wilkins of Peoria, who passed away on August 29, 2013; and

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WHEREAS, Robert Wilkins was born on January 18, 1930, in Owensboro, Kentucky, to Dewey E. and Sara (nee Cullen) Wilkins; he graduated from Peoria High School, where he was senior class president, and from Colorado College with a degree in Economics and Banking; while in college, he was a member and Treasurer of the Sigma Chi Fraternity and was the Captain and driving force behind the formation of the Colorado College Swim Team; he served his country in the United States Army from 1952 to 1954 as an intelligence specialist in Baltimore, Maryland and Stuttgart, Germany; he married Marlyn Sitton on June 7, 1958, in Peoria; and

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WHEREAS, Robert Wilkins received his realtors license in 1958 and worked as a real estate broker and developer for nearly 60 years; he was President and owner of Traders Realty and was instrumental in the development of over 40 subdivisions and thousands of residential home sites; he earned the designation of Certified Property Manager and Graduate of Real Estate Institute; he received the Distinguished Member Award for Community Service, the Industry Achievement Award, and was

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1 the only 2-time recipient of the Realtor of the Year Award, all
2 given by the Peoria Area Association of Realtors; he was also
3 honored as the Illinois Association of Realtors Distinguished
4 Member for Service to the Community and Real Estate Industry;
5 his other business endeavors included Inventory Technology,
6 Incorporated and Pioneer Park One, Incorporated; and

7 WHEREAS, Robert Wilkins was involved in numerous real
8 estate industry organizations; he was President,
9 Vice-President, Secretary, and Director of the Peoria Area
10 Association of Realtors, President of the Peoria Area Land
11 Developers Association, President of the Central Illinois
12 Chapter of the Institute of Real Estate Management, and
13 Chairman of the Illinois Association of Realtors Local
14 Government Committee; and

15 WHEREAS, Robert Wilkins had a passion for the Peoria area
16 and gave back to his community in significant ways; he served
17 as the Director of Jefferson Trust and Savings, as Director and
18 Vice-President of Economic Development for the Peoria Area
19 Chamber of Commerce, as member and Chairman of the City of
20 Peoria Planning Commission, as Director of the Peoria Junior
21 Chamber of Commerce, on the Urban League of Peoria Board of
22 Directors, on the Peoria City Beautiful Board of Directors, on
23 the Better Business Bureau Board of Directors, and as a charter
24 member of Peoria Rotary North; he was a member of the State of

1 Illinois On-Site Waste Water Management Advisory Board, a
2 Proctor Hospital Board Executive Committee member, a First
3 Baptist Trustee and Chairman of the Board of Trustees, and
4 Vice-President of the Mount Hawley Country Club Board of
5 Governors; and

6 WHEREAS, Robert Wilkins believed the Boy Scouts were an
7 extremely important part of his life; he served as Scoutmaster,
8 W.D. Boyce Council President, Executive Committee member,
9 Chairman of Sustaining Membership Enrollment, and Chairman of
10 the Honor Guard; he was an Eagle Scout and a Silver Beaver
11 Award recipient; and

12 WHEREAS, Robert Wilkins had a great love of the outdoors
13 and spent countless hours on his beloved tractors or tinkering
14 at his work bench; he enjoyed racing sailboats, playing golf,
15 taking annual fishing trips to Canada, and taking his family on
16 camping and skiing trips; and

17 WHEREAS, Robert Wilkins was preceded in death by his
18 parents and by his wife of 50 years, Marlyn; and

19 WHEREAS, Robert Wilkins is survived by his brother, Jack
20 (Dawn) Wilkins; his daughters, Nanette (Paul) Weers, Jamie
21 (Rick) Yemm, Sara (Mike) O'Brien, and Wendy (Jeff) Kolbus; his
22 grandchildren, Rich and Sara Yemm, Bobby, Megan, and Kelly

1 O'Brien, and Michael and Nick Kolbus; and many friends;
2 therefore, be it

3 RESOLVED, BY THE SENATE OF THE NINETY-EIGHTH GENERAL
4 ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, that we mourn the passing of
5 Robert "Bob" Shelton Wilkins, 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 Robert Wilkins as an expression of
10 our deepest sympathy.