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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 Tony Etz, who passed away on March 10, 2025 at the age of 64; and

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WHEREAS, Tony Etz was a native of Beaufort, South Carolina and was the fourth generation of his family to attend Knox College in Galesburg, following his uncle, great-grandfather, and grandfather, who was also a longtime member and former chair of the board of trustees; and

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WHEREAS, Tony Etz transferred to Knox during his sophomore year, stating that "it was the key that fit his lock," and was involved in the Union Board and Catch, the student literary magazine, where he served as an editor on the 1983 edition that received the National Program Directors' Prize from the Associated Writers and Writing Programs; he graduated with a degree in English writing in 1983; and

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WHEREAS, Tony Etz attended the Writers' Workshop at the University of Iowa, where he earned his Master of Fine Arts in 1985; he then moved to New York and later California to work in the entertainment business; and

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WHEREAS, Tony Etz started in the made-for-television movie

1 business and executive produced three telefilms that starred
2 Brian Dennehy as Chicago cop Jack Reed from 1992 to 1994; he
3 worked on other television movies that starred Raquel Welch,
4 Melissa Gilbert, Peter Horton, and Lisa Hartman; and

5 WHEREAS, Tony Etz joined the Creative Arts Agency (CAA) in
6 Los Angeles in 1994, where he began as an agent in the
7 television department and ended as the co-head of packaging;
8 and

9 WHEREAS, Over the course of his highly successful 30-year
10 career at CAA, Tony Etz served in various leadership roles,
11 representing writers, directors, actors, and producers, and
12 was also involved in packaging series, including Lost, House,
13 Big Little Lies, Grey's Anatomy, Rescue Me, Brothers and
14 Sisters, Band of Brothers, and MTV's Jackass; and

15 WHEREAS, Tony Etz married fellow television agent Nancy
16 Axelrode in 1999, and together, they had a son, Alex, in 2001;
17 and

18 WHEREAS, Tony Etz taught media classes at the University
19 of Southern California, where he started teaching as an
20 adjunct professor in 2011; and

21 WHEREAS, Tony Etz had a long history of service to Knox

1 College, joining the board of trustees in 2016 and serving as
2 chair from July 2021 until his passing; and

3 WHEREAS, Tony Etz also served on various Knox College
4 committees, including as a chair and member of the Committee
5 of Campus Life and Athletics, as chair of the Executive,
6 Steering, and Board Governance Review Committees, and as a
7 member of the Advancement, Admission and Financial Aid,
8 Finance, and Nominating Committees and of the Committee on
9 Trustees; and

10 WHEREAS, Tony Etz chaired the search for Knox's 20th
11 president, C. Andrew McGadney, and over the course of his
12 service to Knox, he was known for his dedication to the mission
13 and success of the college, his deep appreciation for faculty
14 and students, and his insightful and direct approach to
15 leadership, along with a playful sense of humor; and

16 WHEREAS, Tony Etz's leadership helped the board lead Knox
17 College to rise to its full potential; he worked closely with
18 President McGadney to launch a strategic planning framework,
19 Our Strategy: A Bold and Ambitious Framework for Growth,
20 refine the college's five-year financial plan, and invest in
21 an enrollment growth plan that led to the third highest
22 incoming class in Knox's history; and

1 WHEREAS, Tony Etz was an enthusiastic traveler, reader,
2 music lover, and sports fan; he held season tickets for the Los
3 Angeles Lakers, and in addition to his enthusiasm for and love
4 of his alma mater, he was also proud of his home state,
5 Illinois, and cried tears of joy when the Chicago Cubs won the
6 World Series in 2016; and

7 WHEREAS, In 2024, Tony and Nancy Etz established the Etz
8 Family Institute for Civic Leadership and Dialogue, created to
9 enable students and faculty to question their own views and
10 beliefs, collaborate with political adversaries, and
11 develop-and debate-solutions for daunting local, national, and
12 global issues; the institute helps members of the Knox
13 community build the skills and knowledge necessary to engage
14 with people of differing viewpoints in service of the public
15 good; and

16 WHEREAS, Tony Etz is survived by his wife, Nancy; his son,
17 Alex; his siblings, David, Kathy, and Sara (Joni Mendonca);
18 his in-laws, Dr. Stephen and Marla Axelrode; his nephews,
19 Issac Graham, Lucas Mendonca, and Justin Axelrode; and his
20 nieces, Madison Axelrode and Anna Mendonca; therefore, be it

21 RESOLVED, BY THE SENATE OF THE ONE HUNDRED FOURTH GENERAL
22 ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, that we mourn the passing of
23 Tony Etz and extend our sincere condolences to his family,

1 friends, and all who knew and loved him; and be it further

2 RESOLVED, That a suitable copy of this resolution be
3 presented to the family of Tony Etz as an expression of our
4 deepest sympathy.