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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 former Illinois State Representative Thomas B. "Tom" Berns, who passed away on February 19, 2018; and

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WHEREAS, Rep. Berns was born to Henry E. and Phyllis R. (Berglin) Berns on April 8, 1945 and raised in Atlanta and Plano; he married Jeannie Galvin in Plano on August 28, 1965 and graduated from the University of Illinois in 1968 with a bachelor's degree in civil and environmental engineering; and

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WHEREAS, Rep. Berns began working as an engineer at Danner and Associates, Inc.; in 1975, he co-founded Berns, Clancy and Associates; in 1979, the firm moved to its current location in Urbana and is regarded as one of the premier engineering firms in East Central Illinois; and

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WHEREAS, Rep. Berns taught surveying for the University of Illinois as an adjunct instructor and around the State for the Engineering Extension Service; he also taught continuing education classes for the Illinois Professional Land Surveyor's Association, where he served as president in 1976; and

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1 WHEREAS, In 2000, Rep. Berns was appointed to the Illinois
2 House of Representatives; he was re-elected and served one full
3 term; and

4 WHEREAS, Throughout his career, Rep. Berns received many
5 awards, including the Young Engineer of the Year award in 1975
6 from the Illinois Society of Professional Engineers, the
7 Distinguished Service Award from the Illinois Professional
8 Land Surveyors Association in 1990, the Chi Epsilon Civil
9 Engineering Honor Society and Tau Beta Pi Engineering Honor
10 Society Awards from the University of Illinois, the Urbana
11 Rotary Vocational Achievement Award in 2007, and the
12 Outstanding Civil Engineer Award from the American Society of
13 Civil Engineers in 2009; and

14 WHEREAS, Rep. Berns was a longtime member of the Urbana
15 Rotary Club and served as the club's president in 1987-1988; he
16 served as president of the Urbana Country Club and was a team
17 manager and president of the Prairie Little League for four
18 years; he served on the boards of the Champaign County Chamber
19 of Commerce and the Illinois Chamber of Commerce; he was on the
20 board of the Champaign Urbana Schools Foundation from
21 2005-2011, a member of the Champaign County Bell Tower
22 Committee, and served on the boards of the Champaign County
23 Forest Preserve District Foundation and the Urbana Park
24 District Foundation; he was a member of the board of trustees

1 of the Champaign Urbana Mass Transit district for 11 years and
2 served as its chairman for one term; he was on the board of
3 Clark Lindsey Village in Urbana for 38 years, 35 of those years
4 as chairman; and

5 WHEREAS, Rep. Berns was a member of St. Patrick's Roman
6 Catholic Congregation in Urbana for over 50 years; he was an
7 avid fan of Illini sports fan and enjoyed, golf, tennis, fly
8 fishing, and spending time with his family; and

9 WHEREAS, Rep. Berns is survived by his wife of 52 years,
10 Jeannie; his daughter, Rebecca Berns; his son, Michael (Kelly)
11 Berns; his grandchildren, Brenna, Braden, Breccan, and Briley;
12 and his sister, Mary Ellen Smith; therefore, be it

13 RESOLVED, BY THE SENATE OF THE ONE HUNDREDTH GENERAL
14 ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, that we mourn the passing of
15 former Illinois State Representative Thomas B. "Tom" Berns, and
16 extend our sincere condolences to his family, friends, and all
17 who knew and loved him; and be it further

18 RESOLVED, That a suitable copy of this resolution be
19 presented to the family of Rep. Berns as an expression of our
20 deepest sympathy.