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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 G. Cullom Davis of Springfield, who passed away on September 9, 2022; and

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WHEREAS, Cullom Davis was born to George and Elizabeth (Scripps) Davis in Aurora on May 2, 1935; he was raised in Peoria; he completed high school at the Lawrenceville School in New Jersey; he earned his degree in History from Princeton University in 1957, where he was a member of the Tiger Inn; he taught History at the Punahou School in Hawaii before returning to study at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, where he earned his Ph.D. in American History in 1968; he married Ann Chapman on May 27, 1976; and

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WHEREAS, Cullom Davis joined the History Department at Indiana University in Bloomington, where he taught for five years before being recruited in 1969 to be among the founding faculty of Sangamon State University (SSU), which became the University of Illinois at Springfield (UIS); he was a creative, enthusiastic educator devoted to student learning and developing SSU and its mission as a multidisciplinary public affairs institution; he brought the discipline of Oral History to the university, creating and leading its Oral History Office; he was an ardent supporter of the arts and

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1 Prairie Stars soccer; he held several administrative  
2 leadership roles during his 39 years of service at SSU/UIS;  
3 and

4 WHEREAS, Cullom Davis authored several seminal oral  
5 history texts, including Oral History: From Tape to Type in  
6 1977; he also designed and promoted the Public History  
7 concentration of the master's degree in History; in service to  
8 his profession, he served on boards and presided over many  
9 state and national professional organizations; he was  
10 presented countless awards for his advocacy, innovation, and  
11 expertise in history; and

12 WHEREAS, Cullom Davis became the director of the Lincoln  
13 Legal Papers in 1981, a project focused on discovering,  
14 interpreting, indexing, and digitizing all known legal works  
15 of Abraham Lincoln that became the most comprehensive  
16 chronicling of Lincoln's legal career; he served in that  
17 capacity until his retirement in 2008; and

18 WHEREAS, Cullom Davis' many years in Springfield were  
19 marked by civic interests, including supporting Planned  
20 Parenthood, desegregating Springfield Public Schools,  
21 expanding the Lincoln Memorial Gardens, educating the public  
22 on the Springfield Race Riot of 1908, and providing advisory  
23 work in the creation of the Abraham Lincoln Presidential

1 Library; and

2 WHEREAS, Cullom Davis served on the board of directors of  
3 Springfield Marine Bank until its purchase by Banc One and as a  
4 trustee of the Shelby Cullom Davis Charitable Fund; he also  
5 was active in politics, serving as an alternate delegate of  
6 Illinois at the Democratic Party Presidential Convention in  
7 Miami in 1972; and

8 WHEREAS, Cullom Davis was preceded in death by his parents  
9 and his sister, Mary Scripps Swayngim; and

10 WHEREAS, Cullom Davis is survived by his wife, Ann  
11 (Chapman) Davis; his children, Cathy Davis Lunday, Lesa Davis,  
12 Cully Davis, John Giordano, and Mark Giordano; and his eight  
13 grandchildren; therefore, be it

14 RESOLVED, BY THE SENATE OF THE ONE HUNDRED SECOND GENERAL  
15 ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, that we mourn the passing of  
16 G. Cullom Davis and extend our sincere condolences to his  
17 family, friends, and all who knew and loved him; and be it  
18 further

19 RESOLVED, That a suitable copy of this resolution be  
20 presented to the family of Cullom Davis as an expression of our  
21 deepest sympathy.