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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 Lewis "Bob" Poorman, Ph.D., who passed away on April 2, 2023; and

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WHEREAS, Dr. Poorman was born to Dale Lowell Poorman and Bernice Velma (Krick) Poorman in Germantown, Ohio on December 9, 1926; after attending Ohio Wesleyan University and the University of Virginia as part of the U.S. Navy's V-12 officer training program, he graduated from Ohio State University with his Bachelor of Science in Education and his Master of Arts in Counseling Psychology; he married Lois Romer in Kansas City, Missouri on December 26, 1949; he pursued graduate studies at the University of Southern California and eventually graduated from University of California, Los Angeles, where he earned his Ph.D. in Higher Education Administration with a concentration in community college and student services; and

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WHEREAS, Along with his wife, Dr. Poorman taught at Center High School in the Colorado Rocky Mountains; after serving at two community colleges, Phoenix College in Arizona and Bakersfield College in California, his career centered on his 21-year tenure as founding president of Lincoln Land Community College in Springfield; there, he established the campus and the curriculum and followed the hiring principle of finding

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1 knowledgeable teachers and staff who cared about students and
2 who were interested in serving their communities; and

3 WHEREAS, After retirement, Dr. Poorman was awarded
4 Fulbright Program scholarships to Lithuania, Ukraine, the
5 People's Republic of China, and Tanzania, where he contributed
6 his vast experience and knowledge regarding community colleges
7 and American higher education; and

8 WHEREAS, Dr. Poorman and his family traveled extensively
9 in the United States, especially enjoying the national parks,
10 and he and his wife enjoyed traveling internationally later in
11 life; he loved music, had a warm tenor voice, and reveled in
12 sing-alongs; he appreciated nature, including tending his own
13 garden and watching birds at his many feeders; he
14 enthusiastically and possessively claimed ownership of the
15 backyard barbecue; he enjoyed chatting with visitors over
16 Antiques Roadshow and Shark Tank; he was an avid participant
17 in family game nights and his weekly poker games; and

18 WHEREAS, Dr. Poorman was a man of strong faith and a
19 talented storyteller; he will be remembered for being
20 respectful, compassionate, and peaceful; and

21 WHEREAS, Dr. Poorman was preceded in death by his wife;
22 his daughters, Paula (Susan Simmons) Poorman and Jan Poorman;

1 his parents; and his siblings, Ann, Dale Jr., Jack, and Ray;
2 and

3 WHEREAS, Dr. Poorman is survived by his children, Rev.
4 Mark Poorman, C.S.C., Alex (Susan) Poorman, Lisa (Mark)
5 Thomson, and Dan (Deric Absher) Poorman; his grandchildren;
6 and his great-grandchildren; therefore, be it

7 RESOLVED, BY THE SENATE OF THE ONE HUNDRED THIRD GENERAL
8 ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, that we mourn the passing of
9 Robert Lewis "Bob" Poorman, Ph.D., and extend our sincere
10 condolences to his family, friends, and all who knew and loved
11 him; and be it further

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