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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 Hellenga of Galesburg, who passed away on July 18, 2020 at the age of 78; and

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WHEREAS, Robert Hellenga was born to Ted and Marjorie Hellenga in Milwaukee, Wisconsin on August 5, 1941; a member of Phi Beta Kappa, he graduated with a bachelor's degree from the University of Michigan in 1963 and then earned a doctorate from Princeton University in 1969; and

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WHEREAS, Robert Hellenga began his tenure as a professor of English at Knox University in Galesburg in 1968; he shared his knowledge and expertise at the university for over fifty years; he was a teacher and mentor to generations of writing students, including Senate President Don Harmon; and

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WHEREAS, Robert Hellenga received recognition for his outstanding work at Knox College as a George Appleton Lawrence Distinguished Service Professor Emeritus of English and a Distinguished Writer In-Residence; and

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WHEREAS, Robert Hellenga was an award-winning author of multiple critically-acclaimed novels, including The Fall of a Sparrow (which won awards for Best Fiction from Publishers

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1 Weekly and The Los Angeles Times), Philosophy Made Simple, The
2 Italian Lover, Snakewoman of Little Egypt (selected as one of
3 the best books of 2010 by the Kirkus Review and The Washington
4 Post), The Confessions of Frances Godwin, The Truth About Death
5 and Other Stories, Love, Death, and Rare Books, and The Sixteen
6 Pleasures; and

7 WHEREAS, Robert Hellenga was a loving father to his three
8 daughters, Rachel, Heather, and Catrine, and husband to
9 Marjorie Hellenga; therefore, be it

10 RESOLVED, BY THE SENATE OF THE ONE HUNDRED FIRST GENERAL
11 ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, that we mourn the passing of
12 Robert Hellenga and extend our sincere condolences to his
13 family, friends, and all who knew and loved him; and be it
14 further

15 RESOLVED, That a suitable copy of this resolution be
16 presented to the family of Robert Hellenga as an expression of
17 our deepest sympathy.