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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 James R. Wabel of Springfield, who passed away on July 25, 2023; and

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WHEREAS, James Wabel was born in Peoria to Lewis P. and Grace (Miles) Wabel on November 6, 1931; he graduated from Stephen Decatur High School in 1950 and the UCLA School of Aeronautics at Santa Maria, California in 1951; he was a staff sergeant in the U.S. Air Force from 1951 to 1955 and served as an aircraft and engine mechanic during the Korean War; he received the National Defense and Good Conduct medals; he married Betty Irene Seitz in Decatur on July 5, 1952; and

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WHEREAS, James Wabel retired from Ameritech and the Illinois Bell Telephone Company after 34 years of service; and

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WHEREAS, James Wabel was a lifelong active member of Laurel United Methodist Church in Springfield; he was also a lifelong member of the Springfield Consistory Masonic Lodge and the American Legion; he was a member of the Sangamon Valley Flying Club, the Academy of Model Aeronautics, the Springfield Camera Club, Lincoln Land ALL, Pioneers of America, and the Springfield Coin Club; he volunteered for 15 years at the Kumler Food Pantry; he was also a volunteer at the University

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1 of Illinois-Springfield auditorium for 18 years and a
2 volunteer and guide at the Abraham Lincoln Presidential
3 Library and Museum for many years; and

4 WHEREAS, James Wabel was an avid reader and enjoyed
5 anything regarding aeronautics, history, and his favorite
6 cartoon, Calvin and Hobbes; he was a world traveler and
7 enjoyed building and flying remote control airplanes, hunting,
8 fishing, and wood carving, as well as his many friends at
9 Laurel United Methodist Church and the Concordia Village
10 Community; and

11 WHEREAS, James Wabel was a good husband, father, and
12 grandfather and especially enjoyed spending time with his
13 family; and

14 WHEREAS, James Wabel was preceded in death by his parents;
15 his sisters, Roberta Harney, Lois MacCormack, and Opal Bogner;
16 his brothers, Clarence, Lewis Jr., and Robert Wabel; his
17 brother-in-law, Dallas Seitz; and his great-grandchild,
18 Campbell Koons; and

19 WHEREAS, James Wabel is survived by his wife, Betty Wabel;
20 his daughters, Marcia (Dennis) McCormick and Rita (Kevin)
21 Fuchs; his grandchildren, Kasey McCormick, Colin (Erinn)
22 McCormick, Christopher (Corinne) Fuchs, Claire (Joshua) Koons,

1 Jacob Fuchs, and Joshua Fuchs; his great-grandchildren, Renley
2 and Makenna Fuchs; his sister-in-law, Nancy Seitz; and several
3 nieces, nephews, and cousins; therefore, be it

4 RESOLVED, BY THE SENATE OF THE ONE HUNDRED THIRD GENERAL
5 ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, that we mourn the passing of
6 James R. Wabel and extend our sincere condolences to his
7 family, friends, and all who knew and loved him; and be it
8 further

9 RESOLVED, That a suitable copy of this resolution be
10 presented to the family of James Wabel as an expression of our
11 deepest sympathy.