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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 Ronald Gayle "Ron" Bittle, Ph,D, who passed away on November 28, 2024; and

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WHEREAS, Dr. Bittle was born to Howard and Pauline (Frick) Bittle in Anna on July 3, 1937; he graduated from Anna-Jonesboro High School, where he was a standout athlete on both the football and basketball teams; he served in the U.S. Navy along side his brother, Dean, on the USS Soley; he received a bachelor's degree in physical education, a master's degree in behavior modification, and a doctorate in psychology from Southern-Illinois University-Carbondale; he married Peggy Hines on December 23, 1956; and

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WHEREAS, While a student, Dr. Bittle began working in the Behavior Research Laboratory located at the Anna State Hospital, now Choate Mental Health/Developmental Center, where he led extensive studies of behavior therapy and behavior modification; the results of these studies were shared with scholars and therapists nationally and internationally, bringing about positive changes in approaches to mental health disorders; and

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WHEREAS, Dr. Bittle was appointed family director of Anna

1 State Hospital in 1979, where he fostered the development of
2 close cooperative relations with community-based mental health
3 agencies and completed a vigorous program of upgrading and
4 remodeling the hospital campus; he also served as the deputy
5 director for the State of Illinois Mental Health Services
6 during this time; he retired from the Anna State Hospital in
7 1987, and a few years later, he accepted a one-year position as
8 an administrator of a neurological rehabilitation facility in
9 Mandeville, Louisiana; and

10 WHEREAS, Dr. Bittle remained civically involved through
11 his life and served on the Anna-Jonesboro School Board and the
12 Union County Housing Authority Board for many years; he worked
13 to improve the quality of life for others whether through
14 serving his community, his church, or the state; and

15 WHEREAS, Dr. Bittle served as a constant source of love
16 and support to his family; and

17 WHEREAS, Dr. Bittle was preceded in death by his parents;
18 his brothers, Dean, Richard, Gary, and Bob; and his nephew,
19 Mark Bittle; and

20 WHEREAS, Dr. Bittle is survived by his wife of 67 years,
21 Peggy; his son, Bradley (Laurie) Bittle; two grandchildren;
22 his brother, Randy (Lynn) Bittle; his sisters-in-law, Kay

1 (Richard) Bittle and Sharon (Dean) Bittle; and many nieces,
2 nephews, and cousins; therefore, be it

3 RESOLVED, BY THE SENATE OF THE ONE HUNDRED FOURTH GENERAL
4 ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, that we mourn the passing of
5 Ronald Gayle "Ron" Bittle, Ph.D., and extend our sincere
6 condolences to his family, friends, and all who knew and loved
7 him; and be it further

8 RESOLVED, That a suitable copy of this resolution be
9 presented to the family of Dr. Bittle as an expression of our
10 deepest sympathy.