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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 George Millard Burrier Jr. of Morton, who passed away on February 17, 2025; and

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WHEREAS, George Burrier was born in Chicago to George M. Sr. and Elizabeth (Griggs) Burrier on June 12, 1943; he attended Mercersburg Academy in Pennsylvania for his final two years of high school and then Muskingum College in Ohio for two years; he earned his Bachelor of Arts in Psychology in January of 1967 from Northern Illinois University; he started law school at John Marshall Law School in Chicago and received his draft notice while finishing his second semester; he married Sandra Stetzler in Morton at the Presbyterian Church on July 14, 1973; and

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WHEREAS, George Burrier enlisted in the U.S. Army and served as a Chaplain's Assistant; while there he was awarded the Air Medal Army Commendation Medal for Service, the Army Commendation Medal for Achievement, the Certificate of Achievement from USARV Headquarters, and the Vietnam Combat Medal; he returned from Vietnam and went to work for Pullman, Inc. in downtown Chicago; he transferred to the Illinois Institute of Technology - Kent College of Law and attended night school and earned his J.D. in 1973; and

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1 WHEREAS, George Burrier worked for several law firms in
2 the Peoria area during his career before opening his own law
3 practice in East Peoria in 1997; he supported the development
4 of the Morton to East Peoria bike trail, which he used several
5 times a week to peddle his bicycle from his home in Morton to
6 his law practice in East Peoria; and

7 WHEREAS, George Burrier was the president of the Friends
8 of the Rock Island, Inc. from 1986 to 2015; he was involved in
9 the development of the Rock Island Trail State Park and
10 restoring the historic CB&Q Railroad Depot in Wyoming; as a
11 result of his nearly three decades of leadership, he was
12 recognized as the leading non-governmental spokesperson for
13 recreational trails in the area, earning the nickname, "Mr.
14 Trails"; and

15 WHEREAS, George Burrier received the Landen Memorial
16 Volunteer Service Award from the Peoria Park District and the
17 Conservationist of the Year Award from the Heart of Illinois
18 Sierra Club; he traveled to Washington D.C. on October 1, 2011
19 and was awarded the Doppler Family Rail-Trail Champions Award
20 by the then-current Secretary of Transportation and Peoria's
21 own Ray La Hood; and

22 WHEREAS, George Burrier's other involvements and

1 leadership over the years included being a member of the
2 National Rails to Trails Conservancy, co-founder and director
3 of the Illinois Chapter of Rails to Trails Conservancy,
4 president of Recreational Trail Advocates, a member of
5 Tri-County Regional Planning Commission-Greenways & Trails
6 Taskforce, and president of the Mackinaw Canoe Club; his love
7 of volunteering lead him to serve for many years at Wildlife
8 Prairie State Park and the Midwest Food Bank; he took two trips
9 to Mississippi to help Hurricane Katrina victims rebuild their
10 homes and also helped Habitat for Humanity with five home
11 rebuild projects in Peoria; and

12 WHEREAS, George Burrier and his family enjoyed camping,
13 canoeing, whitewater rafting, and bicycling in Midwestern
14 states and the east coast; he and his wife completed their goal
15 of bicycling in all 50 states and eventually 10 other
16 countries; and

17 WHEREAS, George Burrier was preceded in death by his
18 parents; his stepmother, Jay Burrier; and his son-in-law,
19 Aaron Schneblin; and

20 WHEREAS, George Burrier is survived by his wife, Sandra
21 Burrier; his daughters, Ranell Burrier and Gwendolen (Michael)
22 Kic; his granddaughters, Madison (Mitchell) Handt and Mollie
23 Kic; his stepgrandson, Joel Schneblin; his sisters, Victoria

1 (Gary) Burrier Maratta and Joy Love; and several nieces and
2 nephews; 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 George Millard Burrier Jr. and extend our sincere condolences
6 to his family, friends, and all who knew and loved him; and be
7 it further

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