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1 SENATE RESOLUTION

2 WHEREAS, The members of the Illinois Senate wish to
3 congratulate the Honorable James A. "Jim" Knecht on the
4 occasion of his serving on the bench for the past 50 years,
5 becoming the longest-serving judge in the State; and

6 WHEREAS, Judge Knecht was born in Lincoln and educated at
7 Illinois State University (ISU); he graduated from the
8 University of Illinois College of Law in 1973, during which he
9 was an editor of the Law Review and a member of the Order of
10 the Coif; and

11 WHEREAS, Judge Knecht served as a law clerk to Illinois
12 Supreme Court Justice Robert C. Underwood from 1973 to 1974,
13 as an associate circuit judge from 1975 to 1978, and as a
14 circuit judge from 1978 to 1986 before being elected to the
15 Fourth District Appellate Court in 1986; he also served as an
16 adjunct professor at ISU from 1977 to 2004; and

17 WHEREAS, Judge Knecht is a member of the Illinois State
18 and McLean County Bar Associations, a fellow of the Illinois
19 Bar Foundation, a distinguished alumnus of ISU, and a member
20 of the ISU Foundation Board of Directors; he has served on the
21 boards of the Institute for Collaborative Solutions and the
22 Illinois Family Violence Coordinating Council and as a member

1 of the National Advisory Board of the Corporate Alliance to
2 End Partner Violence; he co-founded and served as the charter
3 president of the Robert C. Underwood Inn of Court; and

4 WHEREAS, Judge Knecht and his wife, Ruth, reside in
5 Normal, and they have one son and three grandchildren, the
6 children of their late daughter; outside of his judicial
7 career, his most important roles have included serving as a
8 coach for two grandsons in football, basketball, and baseball
9 and as a bootblack and groom for his equestrian daughter,
10 wife, and granddaughter; therefore, be it

11 RESOLVED, BY THE SENATE OF THE ONE HUNDRED FOURTH GENERAL
12 ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, that we congratulate the
13 Honorable James A. "Jim" Knecht on achieving his 50th
14 anniversary of serving on the bench, becoming the
15 longest-serving judge in the State; and be it further

16 RESOLVED, That a suitable copy of this resolution be
17 presented to Judge Knecht as an expression of our esteem and
18 respect.