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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.