



HR0211

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HOUSE RESOLUTION

2 WHEREAS, The members of the Illinois House of
3 Representatives are saddened by the death of Dr. Vitor
4 Westhelle, who passed away on May 13 2018; and

5 WHEREAS, Dr. Westhelle was born in Taquara, Brazil on
6 January 1952 and pursued the study of theology at the former
7 Faculdade de Teologia da IECLB in Sao Leopoldo, Brazil; he
8 continued his studies at the Lutheran School of Theology at
9 Chicago, where he earned a Masters of Theology, and at Luther
10 Northwestern Theological Seminary in St. Paul, Minnesota to
11 earn his Ph.D.; and

12 WHEREAS, After completing his education, Dr. Westhelle
13 served as a pastor in Paroquia Evangelica de Matelandia and as
14 the coordinator of the Commission on Land in Parana, Brazil,
15 where he worked with those struggling for land and justice,
16 before returning to the Lutheran School of Theology at Chicago
17 in 1993 to work as an associate professor; he was named a full
18 professor in 1999; and

19 WHEREAS, Dr. Westhelle spent his career traveling the world
20 as a visiting professor; and

21 WHEREAS, During his career, Dr. Westhelle published 14

1 books and hundreds of articles in the English, Spanish, and
2 Portugese languages, impacting the Lutheran church on a global
3 scale; and

4 WHEREAS, Dr. Westhelle served as a valuable mentor to
5 countless students over the decades of his career; and

6 WHEREAS, In the final weeks of his remarkable life, Dr.
7 Westhelle was granted the prestigious title Doctor Honoris
8 Causa in Theology in Latin America from the Executive Council
9 of Faculdades Escola Superior de Teologia; and

10 WHEREAS, Dr. Westhelle is survived by his wife of over 40
11 years, Christiane; his sons, Carlos Henrique, André, and
12 Felipe; three daughters-in-law; and two granddaughters;
13 therefore, be it

14 RESOLVED, BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE
15 HUNDRED FIRST GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, that
16 we mourn the passing of Dr. Vitor Westhelle and extend our
17 sincere condolences to his family, friends and all who knew and
18 loved him; and be it further

19 RESOLVED, That a suitable copy of this resolution be
20 presented to the family of Dr. Westhelle as an expression of
21 our deepest sympathy.