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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 Paul Rector of Urbana, who passed away on March 24, 2021; and

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WHEREAS, Paul Rector was born in Afton, Oklahoma to John Fred and Edna (Harris) Rector on March 5, 1921; he grew up in Urbana, delivering both the Courier and The News-Gazette; he was an active Boy Scout and always enjoyed visiting Camp Drake; he was proud to be an Eagle Scout; he graduated from Urbana High School in 1940, where he was a state champion in wrestling; after three semesters at the University of Illinois studying business and accounting, he was drafted into the U.S. Army; he married Billie Wesson of Sidney in 1943 at the family home, and they renewed their vows in front of the same fireplace 67 years later; and

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WHEREAS, Paul Rector received his commission as a second lieutenant in the Army in 1943; he completed basic training at South Camp Polk, Louisiana; his Eagle Scout rank helped him qualify for Officers Training School, which he completed at Fort Knox, Kentucky; he served in the 775th Tank Battalion in Papua New Guinea and the Philippines; he was discharged as a first lieutenant and returned home to Urbana on Christmas Day 1945; and

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1 WHEREAS, Paul Rector began working as head inspector at
2 the R.H. Bishop Co.; he became a member of the Local 149
3 Plumber & Steamfitters Union in 1949; he also worked for F.R.
4 Inskip Plumbing and Heating as head of the service department;
5 and

6 WHEREAS, Paul Rector's family had a tradition of holding
7 family reunions; he never missed one and continued to travel
8 well into his 90s, with family reunion trips to Hawaii, Puget
9 Sound in Washington, the Outer Banks of North Carolina, and
10 Branson, Missouri; he enjoyed traveling and loved to drive
11 across the U.S. and explore and visit family members along the
12 way; he took his family on many camping trips to numerous state
13 parks in Illinois and Indiana; and

14 WHEREAS, Paul Rector and Billie were active in the First
15 Presbyterian Church in Champaign, and they went on several
16 mission trips for their church and enjoyed their Bible study
17 groups; they worked together restoring their rental properties
18 and always seemed to have a project that needed attention;
19 they enjoyed being with their family and were extremely proud
20 of their children; and

21 WHEREAS, Paul Rector was the husband of Billie; the father
22 of Sharon Rector, James (Gail) Rector, and Sue (Skip) Inskip;

1 the grandfather of eight; the great-grandfather of 10; the son
2 of John Fred and Edna (Harris) Rector; and the brother of Earl
3 Rector, Mary Fern (Rector) Atwood, Lottie Bernice (Rector)
4 LaFuze, Dennis Rector, Orton Rector, John Henry Rector, and
5 Leo Harris Rector; therefore, be it

6 RESOLVED, BY THE SENATE OF THE ONE HUNDRED SECOND GENERAL
7 ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, that we mourn the passing of
8 Paul Rector and extend our sincere condolences to his family,
9 friends, and all who knew and loved him; and be it further

10 RESOLVED, That a suitable copy of this resolution be
11 presented to the family of Paul Rector as an expression of our
12 deepest sympathy.