



HR0857

LRB103 41227 ECR 74444 r

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HOUSE RESOLUTION

2 WHEREAS, The members of the Illinois House of
3 Representatives are saddened to learn of the death of Pettus
4 Thomas "Tom" Morris Jr. of Peoria, who passed away on June 30,
5 2024; and

6 WHEREAS, Tom Morris, the son of Susie Geoghegan Morris and
7 Pettus Thomas Morris Sr., was born in Martinsville, Virginia
8 on December 16, 1939; he graduated from the University of
9 Richmond in 1962; after college, he enlisted in the U.S. Army,
10 serving as an infantry unit commander and a member of a
11 general's staff; upon moving from active duty to the U.S. Army
12 Reserve, he achieved the rank of captain; and

13 WHEREAS, Tom Morris moved to Illinois in 1964, where he
14 started working as a Midwest territory representative for his
15 uncle's furniture business and settled in Peoria; he then
16 began a lengthy career in pharmaceutical sales; and

17 WHEREAS, Tom Morris was passionate about his faith, and he
18 was actively involved with First Presbyterian Church, now
19 known as United Presbyterian, and served as a leader in his
20 local chapters of the Christian Business Men's Connection; he
21 was also a member of the Jaycees and served as president of his
22 local Toastmasters chapter; and

1 WHEREAS, Tom Morris was an avid fan of the Bradley
2 University basketball team, the Bradley Braves, and the
3 University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign football team, the
4 Fighting Illini; he took great pride in helping his sons in
5 whatever ways he could; and

6 WHEREAS, Tom Morris, who was also known as "P.T.", will be
7 remembered for his overt friendliness, his Virginia accent
8 that never faded, and his quirky and impressive knowledge of
9 geography, wildlife, and sports; and

10 WHEREAS, Tom Morris was preceded in death by his parents
11 and his former wife and the mother of his sons, Helen Cox
12 Ferguson; and

13 WHEREAS, Tom Morris is survived by his companion of 37
14 years, Carol Burling; his sons, John D. (Cindy) Morris,
15 Stephen M. (Joy) Morris, and Thomas Kenneth "T.K." (Natasha)
16 Morris; his grandchildren, Jordan (Adria) Morris, Taylor
17 Morris, Robert "Bobby" Morris, Cal Morris, Hannah Morris, and
18 Isaiah Morris; his sisters, Susan Thompson and Libby (Mike)
19 Wharton; his nephews, Jeff Thompson, Brian Thompson, and Ben
20 Wharton; and many members of Carol's family; therefore, be it

21 RESOLVED, BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE

1 HUNDRED THIRD GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, that
2 we mourn the passing of Pettus Thomas "Tom" Morris Jr. and
3 extend our sincere condolences to his family, friends, and all
4 who knew and loved him; and be it further

5 RESOLVED, That a suitable copy of this resolution be
6 presented to the family of Tom Morris as an expression of our
7 deepest sympathy.