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HOUSE RESOLUTION

WHEREAS, The members of the House of Representatives of the State of Illinois learned with sadness of the death of William J. Heise, Jr., of Charleston on Sunday, March 5, 2006; and

WHEREAS, He was born September 9, 1939, in Litchfield to Anna Genevieve (Buscher) and William J. Heise, Sr.; he was united in marriage to Ann Schumacher on June 6, 1964, at Immaculate Conception Catholic Church in Mattoon; and

WHEREAS, Bill was a strong and active member of St. Charles Borromeo Catholic Church; he is particularly remembered for his commitment to prayer, to community, and to God's word which he joyfully read at mass as often as he could; no one who met him could mistake his love of Christ and his desire to bring others to the faith; and

WHEREAS, His work also reflected his love for those with disabilities; after graduating from Eastern Illinois University in 1963, he worked in Moultrie County as a speech correctionist and was instrumental in the creation of mental health and developmental disability services in Moultrie County; he was appointed a member of the Illinois Planning Council on Developmental Disabilities by Governor Jim Edgar in 1991-94; he was administrator of various nursing homes in central Illinois and became a consultant for the Illinois Association of Rehabilitation Facilities; in 1992, he became Division Manager of State Use Programs with Central Management Services for the State of Illinois, achieving CMS employee of the month in November 2001; and

WHEREAS, He enjoyed emceeding Special Olympics events for many years; he was a conservator of dozens of individuals with developmental disabilities who lacked family to advocate for themselves; he was also involved in his community by serving as

1 the chairman of the Charleston Board of Zoning Appeals &
2 Planning and by being actively involved in local politics; and

3 WHEREAS, He was a member of the Polio Survivors of East
4 Central Illinois and was a Paul Harris Fellow of Rotary
5 International; he was an avid football fan, and he also enjoyed
6 fishing, hunting, golfing, and cooking; Mr. Heise and his
7 family welcomed AFS foreign exchange students to his home five
8 times for yearlong programs; above all these interests, his
9 family was the single most important part of his life; and

10 WHEREAS, The passing of William J. Heise, Jr., has been
11 deeply felt by many, especially his wife, Ann; his sons, Mark
12 Heise and wife Richelle and Michael Heise and wife Amelia; his
13 daughters, Annie Barber and husband Ron, Ruthann Hughes and
14 husband Kenny, Sarah Heise and fiance Nathan Watson, Gretchen
15 Kapraun and husband Ben, and Bridget Heise and boyfriend David
16 Dickerson; his 17 grandchildren with one on the way; his four
17 great-grandchildren; his brothers, Jim Heise and wife Midge,
18 George Heise and wife Judi, Jack Heise and wife Anna, David
19 Heise and wife Cathy, Phil Heise and wife Sue, and Tom Heise
20 and wife Carol; and his sisters, Theresa Cunnings and husband
21 Bob, Fidelis Biebel and husband Nick, and Mary Jo Heise; he was
22 preceded in death by his parents and two sisters; therefore, be
23 it

24 RESOLVED, BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE
25 NINETY-FOURTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, that
26 we mourn the passing of William J. Heise, Jr., and we extend
27 our deepest sympathy to his family, friends, and all who knew
28 and loved him; and be it further

29 RESOLVED, That a suitable copy of this resolution be
30 presented to his family as an expression of our sincerest
31 condolences.