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SENATE RESOLUTION

2 WHEREAS, The members of the Illinois Senate are saddened
3 to learn of the death of Dr. Charles E. Morris Jr. of
4 Bloomington, who passed away on August 11, 2024; and

5 WHEREAS, Dr. Morris, the son of Charles E. Morris Sr. and
6 Verta E. Warner Morris, was born in Big Stone Gap, Virginia on
7 September 30, 1931; he graduated from high school as class
8 valedictorian at the age of 16 and Swift Memorial Junior
9 College as class salutatorian in 1948; he was a cum laude
10 graduate from Johnson C. Smith University in Charlotte, North
11 Carolina; he married Jeanne Brown in Charleston, South
12 Carolina on August 18, 1957, and they had two children while
13 residing in Urbana, Illinois; he and his family relocated to
14 Normal in 1966, where they built their home and resided until
15 2018, when they moved to Westminster Village in Bloomington;
16 and

17 WHEREAS, Dr. Morris taught high school in High Point,
18 North Carolina; he then finished the doctoral program at the
19 University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign; he became an
20 associate professor of mathematics at Illinois State
21 University (ISU); he was later promoted to vice president for
22 Administrative Services and then vice chancellor of Academic
23 and Student Affairs for the Illinois Board of Regents in

1 Springfield; and

2 WHEREAS, Dr. Morris was initiated into Alpha Phi Alpha
3 Fraternity, Inc. through the Alpha Omicron Chapter seated at
4 Johnson C. Smith University on December 15, 1951, becoming
5 Life Member 5322 on April 15, 1983; he took his
6 responsibilities as a member and the success of Black students
7 at ISU very seriously, serving as campus advisor to the Eta Tau
8 Chapter of Alpha Phi Alpha during the 1970s and 1980s, as an
9 instrumental part of the establishment of the National Pan
10 Hellenic Council of ISU, and as a mentor to Men of the Eta Tau
11 Chapter into the 1990s, even after leaving full-time
12 employment at ISU; he was also instrumental in chartering the
13 Nu Psi Lambda Chapter of Alpha Phi Alpha in 1981, where he
14 remained an active member until his transition; he was
15 recently honored with his 70-year fraternity anniversary pin;
16 and

17 WHEREAS, Dr. Morris was deeply committed to his students
18 and the ISU community; after relocating to Normal, he and his
19 wife were part of a team that purchased housing for African
20 American students at ISU; he helped countless students afford
21 college and succeed during his tenure at ISU; because of his
22 support, many students, some he would never meet, were able to
23 afford college, succeed while students, and go on to lead
24 prosperous lives after graduation; both he and his wife also

1 wrote legislation that continues to benefit ISU today; and

2 WHEREAS, Post retirement from the university systems, Dr.
3 Morris served as coordinator of SIMaST (Students Integrating
4 Mathematics, Science, and Technology), senior associate of the
5 Center for the Study of Educational Policy at ISU, and
6 president of and consultant with CEM Associates, Inc.; he
7 continued serving on many community boards and was a board
8 member of the Interdenominational Theological Seminary in
9 Atlanta, Georgia; upon retirement, he remained a supporter of
10 ISU as well as a community leader in the Bloomington-Normal
11 area; and

12 WHEREAS, Dr. Morris was the recipient of numerous
13 acknowledgments and awards; he and his wife became the
14 namesake of a social justice library at the ISU Multicultural
15 Center, where they donated books and pictures, ensuring that
16 students and visitors would continue to learn and research
17 African American history; and

18 WHEREAS, Dr. Morris enjoyed traveling with his family
19 across the country and around the world; he also enjoyed
20 documenting the ancestries of his family and his wife's
21 family; and

22 WHEREAS, Dr. Morris, whose life's work encompassed faith,

1 family, philanthropy, and education, was affectionately known
2 as "Buddy" to family members; and

3 WHEREAS, Dr. Morris was preceded in death by his parents
4 and his sister, Dr. DeLois Miriam Morris Fuller; and

5 WHEREAS, Dr. Morris is survived by his wife of 67 years,
6 Dr. Jeanne Brown Morris; his children, David C. Morris Sr. and
7 Lyn E. Morris; four grandchildren; one great-granddaughter;
8 and a host of extended family members, friends, and board,
9 committee, and fraternity members across the country;
10 therefore, be it

11 RESOLVED, BY THE SENATE OF THE ONE HUNDRED THIRD GENERAL
12 ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, that we mourn the passing of
13 Dr. Charles E. Morris Jr. and extend our sincere condolences
14 to his family, friends, and all who knew and loved him; and be
15 it further

16 RESOLVED, That a suitable copy of this resolution be
17 presented to the family of Dr. Morris as an expression of our
18 deepest sympathy.