

## 1 SENATE RESOLUTION

2 WHEREAS, The members of the Illinois Senate are saddened  
3 to learn of the death of Dr. Paul F. Becherer of Belleville,  
4 who passed away May 30, 2002; and

5 WHEREAS, Dr. Becherer graduated from Cathedral High  
6 School in Belleville, Illinois College in Jacksonville, and  
7 Southern College of Optometry in Memphis, Tennessee; Dr.  
8 Becherer retired from his practice in 1995 after lovingly  
9 caring for his patients' vision for more than 50 years; and

10 WHEREAS, Dr. Becherer was a pioneer in the development of  
11 contact lens care and performed clinical investigations on  
12 new products for the Food and Drug Administration; he was  
13 active in the Illinois Optometric Association, a member of  
14 their board of trustees, and a charter member of the  
15 Southwestern Illinois Optometric Society; he also was a life  
16 member of the American Optometric Association; Dr. Becherer  
17 was appointed by the Governor to the Motor Vision Driving  
18 License Committee of the Secretary of State of Illinois; and

19 WHEREAS, Dr. Becherer was a member of St. Henry's Parish  
20 in Belleville; he was a life member and past president of the  
21 Downtown Optimist Club, a member of the Belleville Chamber of  
22 Commerce, a life member of the Knights of Columbus,  
23 Belleville Council 1028, and a life member of the Belleville  
24 Elks Lodge 481; Dr. Becherer was also a member of the  
25 Belleville Sister Cities, the Murray Parents Association of  
26 Centralia, and was proud to have been a member of the  
27 American Legion Band; and

28 WHEREAS, Dr. Becherer was a devoted and loving husband  
29 and father; his greatest pride and joy were his children,  
30 their spouses, his grandchildren, and his  
31 great-grandchildren; he lived life to the fullest, enjoying  
32 boating, skiing, traveling, fishing, scuba diving, flying,

1 playing bridge, and playing the trumpet; and

2 WHEREAS, Dr. Becherer will be deeply missed by all those  
3 who knew him and loved him, especially his wife of 57 years,  
4 Anita, whom he married April 11, 1945; his daughter, Cynthia  
5 Ann (Bill) Evans; his sons, Dr. P. Douglas (Carla) Becherer,  
6 Bart (Cindy Dawn) Becherer, and Gregg Becherer, a resident of  
7 the Murray Developmental Center of Centralia; his seven  
8 grandchildren, Melissa (Dr. Joe) Santiago, Bill (Stephanie)  
9 Roth-Evans, Courtney Becherer, Adam Becherer, Allison  
10 Becherer, Tracy Becherer, and Lauren Becherer; his three  
11 great-grandchildren, Alanna Santiago, Nick Santiago, and  
12 Serena Anne Santiago; his brother, James F. Becherer; his  
13 sister, Juanita (Jack) Grundl; his three sisters-in-law,  
14 Helen Becherer, Frances Gazzini, and Betty Gazzini; and his  
15 many nieces and nephews; therefore, be it

16 RESOLVED, BY THE SENATE OF THE NINETY-SECOND GENERAL  
17 ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, that we mourn, along with  
18 his family and friends, the passing of Dr. Paul F. Becherer;  
19 and be it further

20 RESOLVED, That a suitable copy of this resolution be  
21 presented to the family of Dr. Paul Becherer with our sincere  
22 condolences.