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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 William Grant Sisson of Wadsworth, who passed away on April 2, 2017; and

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WHEREAS, William Sisson was born in Waukegan to Walter George and Erma Boyer Sisson on January 6, 1922; he moved to Zion when he was 17, where he lived until he was 78; he was part of the first graduating class of Zion Benton Township High School in 1940, where he loved to play the trombone in the first school band and earned the first varsity letter ever in basketball; growing up, he was a member of Grace Church in Zion; he also played in the Zion Concert Band and in the Zion Orchestra; after graduating from high school in 1940, he and his 72-year-old father, Walter, started Sisson Sheet Metal; and

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WHEREAS, William Sisson was involved in the World War II effort at Abbott Laboratories before enlisting in the United States Navy; he served in the Navy Medical Corps from 1944 to 1946 and was stationed at Bremerton, Washington; he was then sent to Eniwetok, an atoll in the Pacific Ocean; he married Barbara Jane Baughman on November 24, 1944; and

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WHEREAS, William started a wholesale heating and air conditioning business, Mid-Way Supply, Inc. in Zion in 1948,

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1 which grew to employ 100 people at its peak; in 1973, IBM  
2 featured him in a small business advertisement in the Wall  
3 Street Journal for his early adoption of computers in his  
4 business; he retired from Mid-Way in 1990; and

5 WHEREAS, William Sisson served on the Zion State Bank Board  
6 of Directors, was on the Lake County Board of Supervisors as  
7 Assistant Zion Township Supervisor, and served as a trustee for  
8 the North American Heating and Air-Conditioning Wholesalers  
9 Association; he was on the board of the Lake County Heating  
10 Contractors Association and served on the board of the Zion  
11 Historical Society; after many years on the board of the Zion  
12 Evangelical Mission of Africa, he was given an honorary  
13 lifetime membership; and

14 WHEREAS, William Sisson visited Africa, Australia, China,  
15 Europe, and South America; in his 50s, he rode his bicycle from  
16 Zion to Indianapolis, Indiana; he visited all 50 states, and  
17 after retiring, he took his family and friends on adventures in  
18 his recreational vehicle; he bought a farm in Lindenhurst, now  
19 known as Grant's Grove, where he planted thousands of trees and  
20 hosted hundreds of picnics and parties, including a few  
21 weddings; he also passed out thousands of books on topics that  
22 he was passionate about; and

23 WHEREAS, William Sisson served on the Camp Zion Board of

1 Directors and served for over 20 years as work party  
2 coordinator; in addition, he worked as a youth leader, served  
3 on a pastoral search committee, worked faithfully as an usher,  
4 and played in the orchestra for the Zion Passion Play; and

5 WHEREAS, William Sisson and his wife were members of  
6 Christian Catholic Church (now Christ Community Church) in  
7 Zion, where he was active for over 70 years; and

8 WHEREAS, William Sisson was preceded in death by his  
9 parents; his sister, Florence Montroy; and his great-grandson,  
10 Asher David Phillips; and

11 WHEREAS, William Sisson is survived by his wife of 72  
12 years, Barbara; his children, Kay Sisson, Karilyn (Tom) Jones,  
13 Ken (Jeri) Sisson, and Karl (Kathy) Sisson; his grandchildren,  
14 Andrew (Phiona) Sisson, Becca Jones, Gretchen (Kyle) Phillips,  
15 Elli Jones, Nate (Megan) Sisson, Tim Jones, Haley Sisson,  
16 Matthew Sisson, Grant A. Sisson, Kelly Sisson, Jack Sisson, and  
17 David Sisson; his great-grandchildren, Alaina, Stephen, James,  
18 and Kaitrin Phillips, and Joshua Sisson; his foster sons, John  
19 (Nancy) Huber, and Glen (Annette) Crozier; his  
20 foster-grandchildren, Ishvara Brewington, Stacie (Aaron)  
21 Jones, and Ashley Kanode; and his foster great-grandchildren,  
22 Ryan and Maci Kanode; therefore, be it

1           RESOLVED, BY THE SENATE OF THE ONE HUNDREDTH GENERAL  
2 ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, that we mourn the passing of  
3 William Grant Sisson, and extend our sincere condolences to his  
4 family, friends, and all who knew and loved him; and be it  
5 further

6           RESOLVED, That a suitable copy of this resolution be  
7 presented to the family of William Sisson as an expression of  
8 our deepest sympathy.