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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 Robert Earl Downing of Taylor Ridge, who passed away on April 24, 2017; and

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WHEREAS, Robert Downing was born in Rock Island to John L. Downing and Grace M. Durling on March 11, 1925; he graduated from Rock Island High School in 1943 and attended Augustana College, where he held the high jump record for many years; he enlisted in the United States Army Air Corps, where he attained the rank of second lieutenant and served as a navigator for the 64th Bombardment Squadron; he married Reita Katherine Amy on February 10, 1951; and

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WHEREAS, After his military service, Robert Downing worked as a clerk for the Rock Island Post Office and retired after 34 years; and

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WHEREAS, Robert Downing was an avid fan of the Chicago Cubs and Iowa Hawkeyes; he enjoyed square dancing, bowling, golfing, hiking, and eating at Maid-rite, Whitey's, and Harris Pizza; he and his wife spent their winters in Arizona and his family would often mail him care packages during their winters there; and

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1 WHEREAS, Robert Downing was preceded in death by his wife
2 of 65 years, Reita; his parents; his brother, John R. (Evelyn)
3 Downing; and his beloved dog, Snoopy; and

4 WHEREAS, Robert Downing is survived by his brother-in-law,
5 Richard H. Amy; his nephew, Richard (Kay) Amy; his niece, Reita
6 (Michael) Kuster; five great-nephews; one great-niece; and 12
7 great-greats; his great-nephews, Rickey (Krystle) and Matt
8 (Chelsea) Kuster; and his great-niece, Gail (DJ) Hahn;
9 therefore, be it

10 RESOLVED, BY THE SENATE OF THE ONE HUNDREDTH GENERAL
11 ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, that we mourn the passing of
12 Robert Earl Downing, and extend our sincere condolences to his
13 family, friends, and all who knew and loved him; and be it
14 further

15 RESOLVED, That a suitable copy of this resolution be
16 presented to the family of Robert Downing as an expression of
17 our deepest sympathy.