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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 Emile R. Gelinas of Walla Walla, Washington, who passed away on March 23, 2017; and

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WHEREAS, Emile Gelinas was born in Manchester, New Hampshire to Eulalie Lemieux and Emile Gelinas on January 19, 1926; he grew up in Woonsocket, Rhode Island and attended Catholic school taught in French, his first language; he was drafted into the United States Army in 1945 and served 18 months in post-World War II Germany; he returned to Rhode Island and attended Brown University for two years; he moved to Chicago in 1949 and attended the Chicago College of Laboratory Technique; he married Rosemary "Rosie" Friedrich in Chillicothe in May of 1952; and

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WHEREAS, Emile Gelinas and his wife lived in Peoria where they both worked for a hospital lab; they then moved to Chillicothe, working together in a medical laboratory they established; during this time, they adopted two children, Lauren and David; while living in Chillicothe, he enrolled at Bradley University in Peoria where he earned his bachelor's degree by taking night classes; he graduated from the Loyola University Chicago College of Dental Surgery in 1963; and

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1 WHEREAS, Emile Gelinas was intent on opening his own dental
2 practice in a rural town and moved his family to Harvard where
3 they made their home for 26 years; he served on the Harvard
4 School District Board of Education for nine years, six as
5 president; one of his proudest accomplishments while on the
6 board was getting a major school referendum passed after two
7 previously failed attempts and some hostile opposition; and

8 WHEREAS, Emile Gelinas was involved in the Lions Club; he
9 was a faithful member of St. Joseph Church, where he served on
10 several committees; he was also an enthusiastic member of a few
11 informal groups, such as the "POKER CLUB"; and

12 WHEREAS, Emile Gelinas was a proud and doting grandfather
13 and could not wait to take his granddaughters out for a special
14 treat when he visited; and

15 WHEREAS, Emile Gelinas loved music; he heard Luciano
16 Pavarotti sing in Milan, Italy and at a private performance in
17 San Francisco, California; he loved Christmas and was generous
18 to others; he enjoyed wine, shopping, following the Chicago
19 Cubs and Blackhawks, and Sunday evening dining at the Bismark
20 Hotel; and

21 WHEREAS, Emile Gelinas retired in 1989 and he and his wife
22 began a new life in Palm Springs, California; he became the

1 resident "go-to" guy of the homeowners association; for over 20
2 years, he volunteered at the Desert Regional Medical Center; in
3 2015, he moved to Walla Walla, Washington to be near his
4 daughter, Lauri, and her husband; and

5 WHEREAS, Emile Gelinas was preceded in death by his
6 parents; his wife, Rosemary; his sister, Irene; and his foster
7 son, Bill Walkup; and

8 WHEREAS, Emile Gelinas is survived by his daughter, Lauren
9 (Jeff); his son, David (Tina); his granddaughters, Alexandra
10 (Steve) Cannon, Tigen (Toby) Sanavongxay, and Gabrielle
11 Stiles; his great-grandchildren, Joy and Sidney Sanavongxay;
12 and his buddies, Joe and Tony DeMay; therefore, be it

13 RESOLVED, BY THE SENATE OF THE ONE HUNDREDTH GENERAL
14 ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, that we mourn the passing of
15 Emile R. Gelinas, and extend our sincere condolences to his
16 family, friends, and all who knew and loved him; and be it
17 further

18 RESOLVED, That a suitable copy of this resolution be
19 presented to the family of Emile Gelinas as an expression of
20 our deepest sympathy.