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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 Willie Pearson Sr. of Chicago, who passed away on June 24, 2017; and

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WHEREAS, Willie Pearson was born in Starksville, Mississippi to John "Bud" and Geneva Pearson on June 27, 1933; he was educated at Ebenezer Elementary School and was a member of Ebenezer Baptist Church; his first job was working alongside his father at Mississippi State University; he married Sallie Hale in Starksville in 1952, and in 1955, they settled in Maywood; and

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WHEREAS, Willie Pearson moved his family to Chicago, where he retired from General Grinding in Addison as a truck driver and foreman after almost 40 years; and

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WHEREAS, Willie Pearson loved westerns, a good cup of coffee, a slice of pound cake every morning, and southern food; he never used a microwave and always had a tin pan available to heat his food on top of the stove; his favorite meal was greens, beans, and a pan of cornbread; he was affectionately known as "Pig", "Champ", and "Papa Champ"; he was a big fan of the Boston Celtics, the Chicago Bulls, the Miami Heat, the Golden State Warriors, and the Mississippi State University

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1 football team; he enjoyed having big family meals, taking road
2 trips to Starksville, cards, blues, and his daily talks with
3 his brother, "Skeet"; and

4 WHEREAS, Willie Pearson was proceeded in death by his
5 parents; his wife, Sallie Pearson; his son, Willie Jr.; and his
6 sibling, L.Q "Sonny" Pearson; and

7 WHEREAS, Willie Pearson is survived by his children, Kathye
8 Kelley, Wanda "Tank" Hill (Gerald), Pamela Albert (David),
9 Carmen Pearson, and Cedric Johnson (Annie); his
10 daughter-in-law, Ora Pearson; his grandchildren, Tania
11 Pearson, Charles Kelley Jr. (Amy), Korey Kelley (Tiffany), and
12 Steven C. Mann; his brothers, Tommie Lee "Skeet" Williams,
13 Stacey Fox (Paris), and Steve Fox; his step-sister, Doris
14 Moore; his great-great-grandchildren, Serenity, Laila, Avery,
15 and Malia; his god-children, Barbara Lightford, Jerry Sorrell,
16 Carla Johnson, and Carlton Reives; numerous nieces, nephews,
17 cousins, and friends; and his great-grand-dog, Coco;
18 therefore, be it

19 RESOLVED, BY THE SENATE OF THE ONE HUNDREDTH GENERAL
20 ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, that we mourn the passing of
21 Willie Pearson Sr., and extend our sincere condolences to his
22 family, friends, and all who knew and loved him; and be it
23 further

1 RESOLVED, That a suitable copy of this resolution be
2 presented to the family of Willie Pearson as an expression of
3 our deepest sympathy.