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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 Lerone Bennett Jr., who passed away on February 14, 2018; and

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WHEREAS, Lerone Bennett grew up Jackson, Mississippi, where he began his journalistic career by working on the Lanier High School newspaper; he attended Morehouse College in Atlanta, where he edited the school newspaper; and

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WHEREAS, In 1949, Lerone Bennett became a reporter for the Atlanta Daily World; he joined Jet magazine, and later, Ebony; and

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WHEREAS, Lerone Bennett wrote influential books on African-American history and resilience, and as a journalist and the top editor at Ebony magazine, chronicled key events in the civil rights movement; and

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WHEREAS, Lerone Bennett was a witness to history at the March on Washington in 1963; after the protests to advance black history studies at Northwestern University in the 1960s, the university brought him on as a visiting professor; in the 1980s, he served on the Chicago Public Library board; in 1994, he was named to President Clinton's Committee on the Arts and

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1 Humanities; he served as an early adviser on the Smithsonian's
2 National Museum of African American History and Culture; in
3 2000, he spoke at a Chicago City Council hearing on
4 reparations; and

5 WHEREAS, Lerone Bennett's footprints are in the pavement at
6 the International Civil Rights Walk of Fame in Atlanta for
7 being a "foot soldier" in the civil rights movement; and

8 WHEREAS, Lerone Bennett was preceded in death by his wife,
9 Gloria, and his son, Lerone Bennett III; and

10 WHEREAS, Lerone Bennett is survived by his daughters, Joy
11 T., Courtney Jean, and Constance Joan Bennett, and three
12 grandchildren; 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 Lerone Bennett Jr., 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 Lerone Bennett as an expression of
20 our deepest sympathy.