



SR0621

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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 Leroy O. Hensley of Gifford, who passed away on August 12, 2019; and

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WHEREAS, Leroy Hensley was born at home in Westville to Olin Vern and Hazel Cravens Hensley on September 10, 1922; he attended first grade in Westville and then a one-room school in Jenkins; he graduated from Westville High School, where he was a part of the orchestra and band and a drum major his senior year; he took part in the chorus, plays, and debate team and was chosen for the school honor society, Owls, his junior and senior years; and

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WHEREAS, Leroy Hensley attended business school in Danville and was then employed by the Vermilion County Highway Department; he was then hired by the U.S. Army Air Force at Chanute Air Force Base; in November of 1942, he entered the active Air Force and was assigned to the Santa Anna Army Air Base; he returned home in 1943 and married Mary Wargo on August 14, 1943, while on leave; and

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WHEREAS, Leroy Hensley transferred to Camp Pinedale, California as part of a cadre being formed to go to the South Pacific; while there, the war with Japan ended, and he was

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1 transferred to Gowen Field in Boise, Idaho; he was discharged
2 in November of 1945; and

3 WHEREAS, Leroy Hensley returned to employment at Chanute
4 Air Force Base; after five years at Chanute, he transferred to
5 Parks Air Force Base in Pleasanton, California; after five
6 years there, he returned to Chanute as the M&S Group Material
7 Officer; he received the Air Force Commendation Medal for his
8 management of Secretary McNamara's Cost Reduction Program; he
9 also received an Air Force Commendation Medal for his
10 accomplishments as Chief, Logistic Division, Resource
11 Management Group; he retired as Chief, Plans and Programs
12 Division in 1980; and

13 WHEREAS, Leroy Hensley was active in Rantoul functions; he
14 was a member of the committee that wrote the first Village
15 zoning ordinance and served on the zoning appeals board for
16 several years, most of them as chairman; he was Past Master of
17 the local Masonic Lodge, served as governor of the Rantoul
18 Moose Lodge, was district vice president, and a member of the
19 state board for 12 years, where he served as state membership
20 chair and attained the Honorary Pilgrim Degree, which is the
21 highest degree in the Moose; he was president of the East
22 Central Illinois Chapter of the National Active and Retired
23 Federal Employees Association for many years; he served on the
24 state board for 11 years as district vice president, second

1 vice president, and state membership chairman; he was also a
2 member of Rantoul American Legion Post 287; he served as an AAU
3 swimming official from 1953 to 1955 and officiated Pan-American
4 tryouts at Mare Island, California from 1954 to 1955; and

5 WHEREAS, Leroy Hensley's biggest pride was his family, and
6 he enjoyed family gatherings; and

7 WHEREAS, Leroy Hensley was preceded in death by his wife of
8 70 years, Mary Catherine; his parents; his sons-in-law, Duane
9 Albers and Faustino Hernandez; his sister, Winifred Mae; and
10 his brother, Harmon Oliver; and

11 WHEREAS, Leroy Hensley is survived by his daughters,
12 Linette Albers and Deborah Hensley; his grandson, Todd (Angie)
13 Albers; his sisters-in-law, Ann Knach and Margaret Cornwell;
14 and numerous nieces and nephews; therefore, be it

15 RESOLVED, BY THE SENATE OF THE ONE HUNDRED FIRST GENERAL
16 ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, that we mourn the passing of
17 Leroy O. Hensley and extend our sincere condolences to his
18 family, friends, and all who knew and loved him; and be it
19 further

20 RESOLVED, That a suitable copy of this resolution be
21 presented to the family of Leroy Hensley as an expression of

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1 our deepest sympathy.