

## 1 SENATE RESOLUTION

2 WHEREAS, The members of the Senate of the State of  
3 Illinois were saddened to learn of the death of Gordon R.  
4 Thomas of Springfield on Saturday, March 8, 2003; and

5 WHEREAS, Mr. Thomas was born on July 31, 1925 in  
6 Rushville to J. Glenn and Birdella Reich Thomas; he married  
7 Evelyn Brandt in 1950 in Pleasant Plains; and

8 WHEREAS, Mr. Thomas graduated from Brown County High  
9 School in Mt. Sterling and attended Western Illinois  
10 University in Macomb; he earned a bachelor's degree from the  
11 College of Agriculture at the University of Illinois in 1950;  
12 and

13 WHEREAS, Mr. Thomas valiantly served his country during  
14 World War II in the 11th Armored Infantry Division of General  
15 Patton's Army in the Battle of the Bulge in Bastogne,  
16 Belgium; he was later transferred to the 9th Air Corps in  
17 Germany; he was discharged on May 26, 1946 holding the rank  
18 of staff sergeant; he was awarded the Purple Heart in the  
19 Army hospital in Nancy, France and the Good Conduct and  
20 Expert Rifleman medals; and

21 WHEREAS, Mr. Thomas worked for Country Companies  
22 Insurance in Jacksonville for two years; he later was a civil  
23 engineer for the Department of Transportation, Bureau of  
24 Materials for 30 years; he retired in 1983; he taught an  
25 agriculture class for veterans of the Korean War at Pleasant  
26 Plains High School from 1952 to 1954; he co-owned Brandt  
27 Consolidated; and he was involved in several agricultural  
28 related enterprises and farming; and

29 WHEREAS, Mr. Thomas was an active and energetic member of  
30 the community and participated in several organizations; he  
31 was a member of the Lions Club, the Order of the Purple

1 Heart, the DAV, the American Legion, the Island Bay Yacht  
2 Club, the Sangamo Club, the Jacksonville Country Club, and  
3 the Illini Country Club; he was an avid duck hunter,  
4 fisherman, and golfer; and

5 WHEREAS, The passing of Mr. Thomas has been deeply felt  
6 by many, especially his wife, Evelyn; his brother, Jim (wife,  
7 Rosalie) Thomas; his several nieces, nephews, and cousins;  
8 and Ann and John Charland, Christine and Philip Grizzard, and  
9 Bret Williams; therefore, be it

10 RESOLVED, BY THE SENATE OF THE NINETY-THIRD GENERAL  
11 ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, that we mourn the passing  
12 of Gordon R. Thomas and extend to his family, friends, and  
13 all who loved him our sincerest condolences; and be it  
14 further

15 RESOLVED, That a suitable copy of this resolution be  
16 presented to the family of Gordon R. Thomas as a token of our  
17 deepest sympathy.