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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 Merritt Austin King of Geneva, who passed away on January 24, 2012; and

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WHEREAS, He was born in Milwaukee, Wisconsin on December 2, 1918, the son of Charles and Ruth King; he moved to Geneva in 1928 and was a graduate of Geneva High School, class of 1939; he was united in marriage to Lynne Pearson on December 6, 1944 in London, England while serving in the United States Army in World War II; and

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WHEREAS, He was present vice chairman and secretary of the Kane County Public Building Commission under several mayors since 1989; he was the alderman of Ward Two for 28 years in Geneva; he served as the Mayor Pro Tem for 12 years; as an alderman, he served as Chairman of the Streets and Walks Committee, the Parking Committee, and the Intergovernmental Relations Committee; he was a former member of the City of Geneva's Zoning Board of Appeals, and the Past President and a Board Member of the Geneva Memorial Community Center; and

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WHEREAS, He was responsible for suggesting and implementing the installation of Geneva's Historic Third Street gas lamps; he was the Historian Emeritus for the Geneva

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1 History Center; he was a member of the Board of Directors for
2 the Geneva Historical Society and had a life membership in the
3 Geneva Historical Society; and

4 WHEREAS, He was a member of the Geneva Township Senior
5 Center Advisory Board; a volunteer at the Butterfly House of
6 Peck Farm Park; a former member of the Illinois State Toll
7 Highway Advisory Committee; Citizen of the Year; a member of
8 the Geneva Masonic Lodge #139 AF&M; the 1995 Grand Marshall of
9 the Geneva Swedish Days Parade; a 32nd degree Mason; a member
10 of the Scottish Rite Medinah Temple; and a Shriner with the Fox
11 Valley Shrine Club; and

12 WHEREAS, He was the Past Commander of American Legion Post
13 #75; the historian and a life member of American Legion Post
14 #75; and a Geneva Township Republican Precinct Committeeman
15 from 1947 to 2006; he attended the Army War College and the
16 Washington, D. C. Engineer School; and

17 WHEREAS, He was a decorated veteran, receiving the Purple
18 Heart, Bronze Star, Air Medal, Presidential Unit Citation,
19 French Croix de Guerre, 4 Battle Stars, and a D-Day +3
20 Survivor, Omaha Beach; he flew 9 missions in aerial photo
21 reconnaissance over Germany and France; he served 3 1/2 years
22 overseas in Germany, France, England, Belgium, Africa, and
23 Egypt; and he received 3 Citations from the Corps of Engineers;

1 and

2 WHEREAS, He was a charter member of Topographic Engineers;
3 he was a life member of the 7th Photo Recon Group; in
4 recognition of his valor while a member of the U.S. Army, he
5 was awarded the French Legion of Honor, Chevalier, by the
6 French government on October 13, 2008; and

7 WHEREAS, He enjoyed many sports, excelling in track,
8 football, and basketball at Geneva High School, earning him the
9 lifetime nickname of "Speed"; as an adult he loved sailing,
10 shooting skeet, and playing golf; he was thrilled to experience
11 four holes-in-one over his lifetime; and

12 WHEREAS, He owned and operated King Heating and Air
13 Conditioning in Geneva for many years; he was also honored to
14 have flown on the second flight to Washington D.C. to view the
15 World War II Memorial with Honor Flight Chicago on June 25,
16 2008; and

17 WHEREAS, He was preceded in death by his wife of 50 years,
18 Lynne; and his son Bryan; and

19 WHEREAS, Merritt King is survived by his daughters, Alison
20 King and Lesley (Danny) Dimmick; therefore, be it

1 RESOLVED, BY THE SENATE OF THE NINETY-SEVENTH GENERAL
2 ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, that we mourn, along with
3 his family and friends, the passing of Merritt King; and be it
4 further

5 RESOLVED, That a suitable copy of this resolution be
6 presented to the family of Merritt King as a symbol of our
7 sincere sympathy.