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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 Sanders "Sam" Ivy Hicks of Evanston, who passed away on June 16, 2017; and

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WHEREAS, Sanders Hicks was born in Atlanta, Georgia to Roy and Fannie Fuller Hicks on March 3, 1927; his family moved to Evanston in 1930 when he was three and he attended Foster Elementary School and Evanston Township High School; he played the violin in accompaniment to his mother's poetry readings until his mid-teens when he joined the baseball team, where he excelled as a pitcher for the Evanston Flashes; and

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WHEREAS, Sanders Hicks was drafted into the United States Army Air Corps midway through his senior year in high school during World War II; on his return from the Philippines, he earned his G.E.D. and was considering going to college to get an engineering degree when he decided to test for a position with the Evanston Fire Department; on November 1, 1950, he became Evanston's first African American firefighter; he became a captain in 1963; in 1973, he became the assistant chief training officer; in 1980, he became the first African American fire chief and served in that position until August of 1987, when he retired; in 2015, the Central Headquarters Training Room at the Evanston Fire Department was dedicated to

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1 him; he was a member of the Illinois Fire Chiefs Association;
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3 WHEREAS, Sanders Hicks started the Evanston Speedskating
4 Club in 1966; he was the first coach of Shani Davis, the first
5 African American to win a medal in the Winter Olympics; he
6 worked for many years with the Amateur Skating Association of
7 Illinois and the Amateur Speedskating Union of the U.S., for
8 which he was the Commissioner of Officials from 1988 to 1993;
9 in May of 1999, he was inducted into the U.S. Speedskating Hall
10 of Fame; he conducted International Speedskating Union
11 starters' clinics and promoted the use of appropriate medical
12 procedures at national championships; and

13 WHEREAS, Sanders Hicks was honored with a number of
14 lifetime memberships, among them the Amateur Speedskating
15 Union of the U.S., the Amateur Skating Association of Illinois,
16 Optimists International, and the U.S. Speedskating Hall of
17 Fame; and

18 WHEREAS, Sanders Hicks was an avid photographer; he began
19 shooting weddings, cotillions, and accident sites for lawyers;
20 he then graduated to portraits of blues musicians that were
21 displayed on club walls, CD covers, naturescapes, and his
22 special love, capturing skaters coming round the curve during
23 skating meets; he was a member of the Professional

1 Photographers of America; and

2 WHEREAS, Sanders Hicks was preceded in death by his
3 four-year-old son, Sanders Ellis Hicks; his parents; his
4 brother, Ellis Hicks; and his sisters, Frances Hicks, Harriet
5 Thompson, and Alice Tregay; and

6 WHEREAS, Sanders Hicks is survived by his loving wife,
7 Karen Alysia Lee; his sons, Stanley Brady Hicks and Michael Jon
8 (Jill) Walter; his grandchildren, Jake and Kate Walter; his
9 brother-in-law, James Tregay; and many loving cousins, nieces
10 and nephews, colleagues and friends; therefore, be it

11 RESOLVED, BY THE SENATE OF THE ONE HUNDREDTH GENERAL
12 ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, that we mourn the passing of
13 Sanders "Sam" Ivy Hicks, and extend our sincere condolences to
14 his family, friends, and all who knew and loved him; and be it
15 further

16 RESOLVED, That a suitable copy of this resolution be
17 presented to the family of Sanders Hicks as an expression of
18 our deepest sympathy.