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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 Louis Leonard "Len" Dirksen of Springfield, who passed away on November 25, 2018; and

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WHEREAS, Len Dirksen was born in Springfield to Lawrence G. and Mary Helen Leonard Dirksen on December 11, 1942; he graduated from Cathedral Boys High School and earned a bachelor's degree in education and a master's degree in special education from SIU Carbondale; he married Julie Bucari, and they raised their daughters in their hometown, surrounded by a very loud, very loving family; an Eagle Scout, he made sure his daughters knew how to change their own tires, bone a fish, and read a map; and

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WHEREAS, Len Dirksen was a proud member of the American Business Club, and his duties at the State Fairgrounds Grandstand meant a lifetime of memories; he played baseball with the Un-Stars and was famous for his grilled corn at season-end parties; he organized the LPGA Rail Classic Charity Golf Outing for many years and was a core member of the Governor's Prayer Breakfast Committee; and

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WHEREAS, Len Dirksen was quick with a warm smile, had a laugh that filled any room, and sported a mischievous twinkle

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1 in his eye; he was generous and loyal; a proud Irish-Catholic  
2 Kennedy Democrat, he was active in politics; he was a proud  
3 father and grandfather and made good friends wherever he  
4 landed; and

5 WHEREAS, Len Dirksen was preceded in death by his parents;  
6 his brother, Lawrence G. Dirksen; and his sister, Diane Skaggs;  
7 and

8 WHEREAS, Len Dirksen is survived by his daughters, Molly  
9 (Camilo Rasquin) Dirksen and Betsy (Tom Jr.) Dirksen Londrigan;  
10 his grandchildren, Jack, William, and Kathryn Londrigan; the  
11 mother of his children, Julie Bucari Dirksen; his nieces,  
12 Linley Bowyer, Ashley Vasconcelles, and Sherry Skaggs; his  
13 nephews, Gary Dirksen and Larry Skaggs; and his many beloved  
14 cousins; therefore, be it

15 RESOLVED, BY THE SENATE OF THE ONE HUNDREDTH GENERAL  
16 ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, that we mourn the passing of  
17 Louis Leonard "Len" Dirksen and extend our sincere condolences  
18 to his family, friends, and all who knew and loved him; and be  
19 it further

20 RESOLVED, That a suitable copy of this resolution be  
21 presented to the family of Len Dirksen as an expression of our  
22 deepest sympathy.