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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 Richard Carol "R.C." Smith, who passed away on September 2, 2019; and

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WHEREAS, R.C. Smith was born to Earl Edward and Sylvia Dickson Smith on January 28, 1934 and lived most of his life as a sixth generation resident of Long Creek Township in Macon County; he graduated from Mt. Zion High School in 1952 and attended Hannibal-LaGrange College; he served in the U.S. Air Force during the Korean War and spent two years on Okinawa; he married Wanda Jones on June 13, 1964; and

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WHEREAS, R.C. Smith worked for the Wabash, the Norfolk and Western, and the Norfolk Southern railroads, retiring after 39 years; he then served for over eight years as executive director of the Decatur-Area Labor Management Committee; and

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WHEREAS, R.C. Smith was elected as the assistant township supervisor for Long Creek Township in 1961 and then served as a member of the Macon County Board for 28 years; in 1971, he was elected as Mt. Zion Township Supervisor, the first Democrat to be elected township supervisor there in over 20 years; he was the chairman of the Macon County Board for one term from 1985 to 1986 and served five terms as vice chairman; he also served

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1 a partial term as Long Creek Township Assessor in 1989; he was
2 elected as Long Creek Township Clerk in 1997 and most recently
3 served in that position; and

4 WHEREAS, R.C. Smith served as precinct committeeman for the
5 Democratic Party for over 50 years, starting in 1961; he first
6 started handing out his well-known pocket calendars with his
7 first run for political office in 1961 and did so every year
8 since; he was an active member of the Macon County Democratic
9 Central Committee; he served as chairman of the Long Creek
10 Township Democrats for over 30 years and was an active
11 committeeman for Long Creek #8; and

12 WHEREAS, R.C. Smith was a member of the Macon County #708
13 Mental Health Board for many years and the Macon County
14 Mosquito Abatement District Board, where he served as
15 president; he was a member of the board of directors of the
16 Township Officials of Illinois from 2005 to 2012 and served as
17 a director and officer for the Township Clerks of Illinois for
18 several years; he was a trustee for the Long Creek Fire
19 Protection District for several years and a member of the N&W
20 Fellowship Club, where he served as president for five years;
21 and

22 WHEREAS, R.C. Smith was a member of the Illinois Old Time
23 Fiddlers Association for over 30 years and was honored to serve

1 as master of ceremonies for the Illinois State Fiddle Contest
2 for five years; he was a member of the Jefferson-Jackson Club
3 and TOPS Club 610; he was a member and past president of the
4 Township Officials of Macon County; he was a retiree member of
5 the Wabash Hospital Association Board for eight years and
6 served as alternate member for six years; and

7 WHEREAS, R.C. Smith was a member of the International Order
8 of Odd Fellows Lodge #300 in Mt. Zion for over 50 years and
9 Ionic Lodge #312, AF & AM for 57 years; he was extremely
10 honored to be chosen as the grand marshal of the Decatur Labor
11 Day Parade in 1997; he was a member of the Charles Parlier
12 Chapter of the Korean War Veterans Association DAV No. 17
13 Decatur; he was an active member and president of the Long
14 Creek senior citizens organization and enjoyed helping set up
15 programs for their lunches; and

16 WHEREAS, R.C. Smith was a member and local leader of the
17 National Association of Retired and Veteran Railway Employees;
18 he served on the Decatur-Macon County Economic Development
19 Corporation, The Decatur Advantage, Inc., and as a member of
20 the board of directors for the Decatur-Macon County senior
21 citizens organization; and

22 WHEREAS, R.C. Smith was very proud and thankful to be named
23 an official "Kentucky Colonel" of the Commonwealth of Kentucky

1 by Kentucky Governor Wallace G. Wilkinson in 1989; and

2 WHEREAS, R.C. Smith was a member of Tabernacle Baptist
3 Church, where he served as a deacon for over 40 years; he was
4 named deacon emeritus in January of 2004; he served as an adult
5 men's Sunday school teacher for over 45 years; and

6 WHEREAS, R.C. Smith was preceded in death by his parents
7 and his son, Randy E. Smith; and

8 WHEREAS, R.C. Smith is survived by his wife of 55 years,
9 Wanda; his son, Bryan E. Smith; his daughter, Patty (Jerry)
10 Rodgers; his grandchildren, Kayleigh Smith, Kelcie Smith,
11 Brett Rodgers, and Nicole DeBolt; and three
12 great-grandchildren; therefore, be it

13 RESOLVED, BY THE SENATE OF THE ONE HUNDRED FIRST GENERAL
14 ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, that we mourn the passing of
15 Richard Carol "R.C." Smith and extend our sincere condolences
16 to his family, friends, and all who knew and loved him; and be
17 it further

18 RESOLVED, That a suitable copy of this resolution be
19 presented to the family of R.C. Smith as an expression of our
20 deepest sympathy.