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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 Albert Leon Mampre, the last surviving medic from the so-called "Band of Brothers," who passed away on May 31, 2019; and

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WHEREAS, Albert Mampre grew up in Oak Park, the son of immigrants from the Armenian diaspora; his mother, Viola, came from Baghdad; his father, Nishan, came from Turkey and repaired rugs and farm equipment; after graduating from Oak Park High School, he pursued ministerial studies at Ohio Northern and Hardin-Simmons University in Texas; he married Virginia Joboulian in 1945; and

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WHEREAS, Albert Mampre enlisted in the United States Army in 1942; during WWII, he was part of the 2nd Battalion, 506th Parachute Infantry Regiment of the 101st Airborne Division, which was featured in Stephen Ambrose's book Band of Brothers; and

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WHEREAS, Albert Mampre's unit jumped into Holland as part of Operation Market Garden, where he was twice wounded by a sniper as he went to the aid of a wounded lieutenant; he was subsequently transported to an English hospital; after healing, he returned to the front in France; during the Battle

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1 of the Bulge, he served at Bastogne, Belgium at Regimental  
2 Headquarters across the plaza from General McAuliffe; he moved  
3 with the regiment all the way to occupying the Eagle's Nest in  
4 Berchtesgaden; at the Berchtesgaden Hof, he became the House  
5 Physician; he ended the war in Paris and Marseilles and then  
6 flew home to be discharged from Ft. Sheridan; and

7 WHEREAS, Albert Mampre received many honors for his war  
8 service, including the Purple Heart, the Purple Heart with  
9 bronze oak leaf cluster, the Distinguished Member of the 506th  
10 Infantry Regiment honor by Order of the Secretary of the United  
11 States Army, the European African Middle Eastern Theater Ribbon  
12 with four bronze stars, the European Campaign Medal, the WWII  
13 Victory Medal, the Army of Occupation Medal, and the Legion of  
14 Merit from the State of Illinois in 2017; he received several  
15 Unit Citations, including two Presidential Unit Citations, the  
16 French Croix de Guerre with Palm and Fourregere, the Belgian  
17 Croix de Guerre with Palm and Fourregere, and the Orange  
18 Lanyard from the Netherlands; and

19 WHEREAS, After the war, Albert Mampre resumed his studies  
20 at Pepperdine University and UCLA, where he studied psychology;  
21 he pursued post-graduate studies in psychology and  
22 social/cultural anthropology at the University of Chicago,  
23 where his efforts brought the opportunity to work on a project  
24 at International Harvester (IH); he worked in management

1 development and public relations at IH alongside his family  
2 psychology practice; and

3 WHEREAS, Albert Mampre was active in many leadership  
4 capacities in the community and at his church; he served as  
5 Chairman of the Human Relations Committee in the Evanston  
6 School District and spent years leading Junior Achievement  
7 programs and mentoring Boy Scouts; he devoted many hours to  
8 fundraising for veterans and children's organizations for the  
9 last 20 years; he attended events all over the world on behalf  
10 of veterans as an in-demand speaker, presenter, and eyewitness  
11 to history; he worked with law enforcement and emergency medic  
12 response teams and visited the wounded at Walter Reed and  
13 Bethesda Naval Hospitals; and

14 WHEREAS, Albert Mampre reconnected with his fellow  
15 Screaming Eagles in 2001, when the men of the 101st Airborne  
16 506th Easy Company were invited to The Oscars for the HBO  
17 miniseries Band of Brothers; never one to glorify his own  
18 accomplishments, he was still able to articulate the  
19 challenging circumstances that the soldiers faced, how they  
20 felt, and how lucky they were to return home; and

21 WHEREAS, Albert Mampre shared love, laughter, an  
22 inquisitiveness about the world, and a commitment to family and  
23 faith with his wife; in 1948, before they had a family, they

1 took a three-month bicycle tour of Europe, witnessing its  
2 recovery from war; they were interested in gardening, music,  
3 theater, art, advances in science, and archeological digs; he  
4 loved his English setter Keebler, watching Westerns, and eating  
5 Baskin-Robbins ice cream and Armenian specialties, including  
6 rice pilaf and lahmajun; he loved people and gave much of  
7 himself to others; many were fortunate to experience his  
8 charisma, wit, humor, charm, and overall kindness; and

9 WHEREAS, Albert Mampre was preceded in death by his wife of  
10 63 years, Virginia; and his daughter, Elizabeth Celebucki; and

11 WHEREAS, Albert Mampre is survived by his daughters,  
12 Virginia E. Mampre and Susan D. (Glen Wright) Mampre; his  
13 granddaughter, Anayis J. Mampre Wright; his brother, Edward  
14 Mampre; his son-in-law, Jim Celebucki; and many nieces and  
15 nephews and their children; therefore, be it

16 RESOLVED, BY THE SENATE OF THE ONE HUNDRED FIRST GENERAL  
17 ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, that we mourn the passing of  
18 Albert Leon Mampre and extend our sincere condolences to his  
19 family, friends, and all who knew and loved him; and be it  
20 further

21 RESOLVED, That a suitable copy of this resolution be  
22 presented to the family of Albert Mampre as an expression of

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1 our deepest sympathy.