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LRB101 13320 ALS 62162 r

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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 William John "Bill" Harris, who passed away on January 21, 2019 at the age of 63; and

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WHEREAS, William Harris graduated from Oak Park and River Forest High School in 1973; during his youth, he was active in the Boy Scout program and earned the Rank of Eagle Scout while a member of Troop 8 in Oak Park; he also participated in a Drum and Bugle Corps; and

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WHEREAS, William Harris received training in the heating and air conditioning field and was later employed by the Overhead Garage Door Company for more than 20 years; and

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WHEREAS, William Harris was a supportive and loving father, even during difficult times, including when his son Joshua asked his permission to enlist in the Illinois National Guard; he admitted it was a difficult decision, but after the initial shock wore off, he supported his son; he later became an active and dedicated participant in the Gold Star Families Program and thoroughly enjoyed his time working with them; he became involved when his son, Sergeant Joshua Harris of the 2nd Battalion, 122nd Field Artillery Regiment, was killed in action with four others in Afghanistan on September 17, 2008; and

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1           WHEREAS, William Harris was also involved with the  
2 Brookfield VFW Post, which was renamed the Joshua Harris  
3 Brookfield Memorial Post #2868 in remembrance of his son; the  
4 Harris family, led by daughter Kalyn, also passed on the  
5 importance of Memorial Day when they helped arrange a special  
6 presentation by then-Governor Pat Quinn at Congress Park  
7 Elementary School, where Joshua's younger sister attended  
8 school; students, faculty, and staff at the school remember and  
9 "will forever treasure the many memories he brought to many of  
10 us"; and

11           WHEREAS, William Harris volunteered at Hines VA Hospital;  
12 one of his last projects was to create large Christmas cutouts  
13 for the Village of Brookfield; he was willing to give his time  
14 to his family, friends, and any others who might have needed  
15 help; and

16           WHEREAS, Despite an extended illness, William Harris had a  
17 big smile, was a positive thinker, and had a marvelous sense of  
18 humor; he was loved by all who met him; and

19           WHEREAS, William Harris was a former member of Judson  
20 Baptist Church in Oak Park and St. John Lutheran Church in  
21 Forest Park, as well as a member of Trinity Lutheran Church in  
22 Burr Ridge; and

1           WHEREAS, William Harris was preceded in death by his  
2 father, William A. Harris, and his son, Sergeant Joshua Harris;  
3 and

4           WHEREAS, William Harris is survived by his wife, Jean G.  
5 Harris; his daughters, Kristin Dutra and Kalyn Harris; his  
6 grandchildren, Tyler and Breana; his mother, Virginia C.  
7 Harris; and his sisters, Sandra (Edward) Qintrall and Gail,  
8 Susan, and Mary (John) Raad; therefore, be it

9           RESOLVED, BY THE SENATE OF THE ONE HUNDRED FIRST GENERAL  
10 ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, that we mourn the passing of  
11 William John "Bill" Harris and extend our sincere condolences  
12 to his family, friends, and all who knew and loved him; and be  
13 it further

14           RESOLVED, That a suitable copy of this resolution be  
15 presented to the family of William Harris as an expression of  
16 our deepest sympathy.