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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 Gordon "Gordy" L. Ropp of Normal, who passed away on April 14, 2020; and

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WHEREAS, Gordon Ropp was born in Normal to Clarence R. and Mabel (Mohr) Ropp on April 5, 1933; he was helping his father milk cows by the age of six and joined 4-H by the time he was 10, where he proudly displayed his prize-winning Jersey cow, Corianda; and

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WHEREAS, Gordon Ropp graduated from Normal Community High School as valedictorian of his class and from the University of Illinois in 1955; during college, he received his commission as a second lieutenant in the ROTC program and was a member of the Farm House Fraternity; he married Roberta Cutter in 1955, and they returned to the family farm, raising anywhere from 40 to 100 Jersey cattle at a time; and

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WHEREAS, Gordon Ropp was employed by the Funk Seed Company as a young man; he was selected as a delegate to the Illinois Agriculture Association Convention by the McLean County Farm Bureau in 1960 at the age of 27; around the same time, he was state director of the American Dairy Association of Illinois, secretary-treasurer of the Illinois Jersey Cattle Club

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1 Association, and president of the Dairy Herd Improvement  
2 Association of McLean County; he served on the executive  
3 committee of the American Dairy Association and as captain in  
4 his local National Guard; he and Roberta were also selected by  
5 the Pure Milk Association as the Outstanding Young Dairy Farm  
6 Couple for District 2; and

7 WHEREAS, In 1969, Gordon Ropp accepted the position as  
8 Assistant Director of Agriculture in Springfield; in 1970, he  
9 became the Director of the Illinois Department of Agriculture;  
10 during his time as director, he implemented many new programs  
11 and practices while continuing to promote Illinois agriculture  
12 across the globe; he was particular proud of the eradication of  
13 hog cholera, a highly contagious swine disease; he oversaw the  
14 implementation of the Centennial Farm Sign program, which  
15 continues today and recognizes Illinois farms which have been  
16 in a single family for 100 years; and

17 WHEREAS, Gordon Ropp served as the Illinois State  
18 Representative for the 88th District from 1979 to 1993; he  
19 served on many committees, including Appropriations, Higher  
20 Education, Agriculture, Executive, and Public Utilities; after  
21 his time as a representative, he served as the Rural Affairs  
22 Liaison to the Secretary of State; and

23 WHEREAS, Gordon Ropp retired in 1999 but remained active in

1 the McLean County community; he worked as a Unit 5 substitute  
2 teacher and volunteered his time with a variety of  
3 organizations and clubs, including 4-H, the Shriners, the  
4 Masons, the Royal Order of the Jesters, the David Davis Mansion  
5 Foundation, the Normal Rotary, the Timeless Clovers McLean  
6 County 4-H Alumni, McLean County Barn Quilters, the Illinois  
7 Jersey Cattle Club, Extension Partners, the McLean County  
8 Seniors Golf League, and the Prune Juice Golf League; and

9 WHEREAS, Gordon Ropp received numerous awards and  
10 recognitions during his life, including the Clarence Ropp 4-H  
11 Family Spirit Award in 2003, the 4-H Volunteer in 2005, and  
12 Illinoisan of the Day at the Illinois State Fair in 2010; and

13 WHEREAS, Gordon Ropp was dedicated to 4-H for over 75  
14 years; he was an avid fan of the St. Louis Cardinals and the  
15 Chicago Bears; and

16 WHEREAS, Gordon Ropp was preceded in death by his wife,  
17 Roberta; his parents; his son, David; and his infant sister,  
18 JoAnne; and

19 WHEREAS, Gordon Ropp is survived by his children, Diana and  
20 Darren Ropp; his grandchildren, Shana (Kevin Mulloy) Emberton,  
21 Jeff Emberton, Troy (Sarune) Emberton, Samantha (Josh)  
22 Fairbanks, Savannah Ropp, Sadie Ropp, Domonique Ropp, and

1 Daniel Ropp; his great-grandchildren, Levi Emberton, Wyatt  
2 Emberton, Augustus Emberton, Avery Mulloy, and Emma Mulloy; and  
3 his brother, Ray (Carol) Ropp; therefore, be it

4 RESOLVED, BY THE SENATE OF THE ONE HUNDRED FIRST GENERAL  
5 ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, that we mourn the passing of  
6 Gordon "Gordy" L. Ropp and extend our sincere condolences to  
7 his family, friends, and all who knew and loved him; and be it  
8 further

9 RESOLVED, That a suitable copy of this resolution be  
10 presented to the family of Gordon Ropp as an expression of our  
11 deepest sympathy.