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LRB102 28965 MST 40864 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 Gerald Mack "Andy" Anderson, who passed away on August 23, 2022; and

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WHEREAS, Andy Anderson was born in Cass County to Roscoe "Jack" Phineas and Virgie Lena (McHenry) Anderson on December 2, 1922; he graduated from Petersburg Harris High School in 1940, where he excelled in multiple sports; he entered the Rossiter Baseball School, and in 1941 and 1942, he played minor league baseball with the Springfield Brownies; during this time, he also worked at the Allis Chalmers Manufacturing Plant and later at Pillsbury Mills in Springfield; and

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WHEREAS, Andy Anderson was drafted into the U.S. Army in January of 1943; he arrived in Casablanca, North Africa and joined the "Big Red One" (1st Infantry Division); he was assigned to the demolition squad and fought in Sicily; on June 6, 1944, his unit stormed Omaha Beach; after being wounded in France, he rejoined his platoon, which successfully held the northern flank in the Battle of the Bulge, where he was wounded a second time; he was with his unit until shortly after V-E Day; he was discharged in 1945 and returned home; he was decorated with two Bronze Star Medals, two Purple Heart Medals, and a Bronze Service Arrowhead; in February of 2014 in

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1 Raleigh, North Carolina, he was one of the World War II  
2 veterans presented with the Legion of Merit Medal, which is  
3 France's highest military honor; and

4 WHEREAS, After his service, Andy Anderson returned to  
5 playing baseball in the minor leagues and working at Pillsbury  
6 Mills; he became the head coach of the Oakford Farmerettes, a  
7 female semi-pro basketball team comprised of young women from  
8 Oakford; he frequently commented on how proud he was to be  
9 involved with coaching these incredible ladies from Oakford,  
10 including two of his own sisters, who won an AAU State  
11 Championship every year they competed; he was also contracted  
12 as a professional umpire for the Georgia-Florida baseball  
13 league; and

14 WHEREAS, Andy Anderson returned to Oakford in 1949 and  
15 married the love of his life, Ethel Josephine Elan Hillman, a  
16 nursing student from Meadville, Pennsylvania; they had met  
17 just twice while he was on liberty in 1943, prior to being  
18 deployed overseas; he carried Josephine's picture with him and  
19 corresponded with her throughout his time overseas; and

20 WHEREAS, Andy Anderson started with the United States Post  
21 Office as a clerk in Springfield in 1958, and he and Josephine  
22 bought a house in Jerome; he became active in the United  
23 Federation of Postal Clerks and held positions at the local,

1 state, and regional levels; in his spare time, he also  
2 successfully ran Handy Andy's Tree Service; he campaigned  
3 successfully for an elected position with the national  
4 American Postal Workers' Union (APWU) and moved to the  
5 Washington, D.C. area; he was very skilled in mediation and  
6 arbitration and traveled around the country resolving disputes  
7 involving union members until 1985; he served as the assistant  
8 director of the APWU until his retirement in 1986; and

9 WHEREAS, Andy Anderson and Josephine built a home in  
10 Pinehurst, North Carolina, where he held a golf membership and  
11 pursued his love of golf full time, playing the Pinehurst  
12 courses with various groups four to five days a week; after the  
13 passing of his wife, he remained in Pinehurst, staying active  
14 on the golf course, participating in Veterans' Day parades,  
15 having breakfast with the "Dirty Dozen" at Mac's restaurant,  
16 and hosting annual birthday parties at Beefeaters until the  
17 fall of 2019 when he moved back to Springfield; and

18 WHEREAS, Andy Anderson faithfully attended the Big Red One  
19 reunions, postal union conventions, the Normandy D-Day  
20 anniversaries, and special events in Springfield and Oakford;  
21 he established an annual nursing scholarship for a PORTA high  
22 school senior, in memory of Josephine; he is the only person  
23 who has twice been inducted into the PORTA High School Hall of  
24 Fame; in April of 1922, he was honored by the Clinton Lodge #19

1 A.F. & A.M. in Petersburg for 75 years of membership; he was  
2 generous to numerous charities, and his memory of how  
3 difficult times were in the Great Depression seemed to propel  
4 his generosity toward others throughout his life; and

5 WHEREAS, Andy Anderson was enthusiastic about educating  
6 successive generations about the sacrifices made by those who  
7 never came home from World War II; he passed an incredible  
8 legacy on to more than 40 of his family members when he  
9 generously paid for them to take an amazing 10-day trip to  
10 Europe with him, to visit the battle sites and learn about  
11 World War II; and

12 WHEREAS, Andy Anderson was preceded in death by his wife  
13 of 53 years, Josephine; his parents; his sisters, Lucille  
14 (Paul "Ham") Lutes, Roberta (Donald) Stroh, Esther (Gilbert)  
15 Fricke, and Phyllis Leinberger; his brothers, Randall Paul,  
16 Roscoe Arthur "Art" (Jackie), and Eugene "Bugeye" Anderson;  
17 his niece, Linda Horn; and his nephew, Bret Leinberger; and

18 WHEREAS, Andy Anderson is survived by his sister, Virginia  
19 (Otto, deceased) Winkelmann; his sister-in-law, Glenda  
20 (Eugene, deceased) (Bohm) Anderson; his brother, Robert "Bob"  
21 (Wanda, deceased) Anderson; his nieces, Deann Shelabarger,  
22 Brenda Vost, Lana (Ted) Grothe, Sandra (Robert) Newman, Carol  
23 (Kris) Blake, Beverly Leinberger, Rhonda Davis, Lisa (Fred

1 Zar) Anderson, Gina (Phil) Nottingham, Barbara Rebbe, Amy  
2 (Charlie) Todd, and Brenda (Kenny) White; his nephews, Andy  
3 (Susie) Winkelmann, Tracy (Judy) Anderson, Bart (Rhonda)  
4 Leinberger, Allan (Shirley) Anderson, Dan Fricke, and Greg  
5 (Amanda) Anderson; and several great-nieces and great-nephews;  
6 therefore, be it

7 RESOLVED, BY THE SENATE OF THE ONE HUNDRED SECOND GENERAL  
8 ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, that we mourn the passing of  
9 Gerald Mack "Andy" Anderson and extend our sincere condolences  
10 to his family, friends, and all who knew and loved him; and be  
11 it further

12 RESOLVED, That a suitable copy of this resolution be  
13 presented to the family of Andy Anderson as an expression of  
14 our deepest sympathy.