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SENATE RESOLUTION

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WHEREAS, The members of the Senate of the State of Illinois were saddened to learn of the death of Burnell William "Burnie" Furstenau of Downers Grove on Sunday, April 27, 2003; and

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WHEREAS, The second of six children, Mr. Furstenau spent most of his childhood on his family's dairy farm in Scribner, Nebraska; he enrolled at the University of Nebraska in Lincoln where he studied for a short time before being joining the United States Navy for two years and serving as a radio operator during World War II; and

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WHEREAS, After the war, Mr. Furstenau returned to the University of Nebraska on the G.I. Bill and earned a bachelor's degree in electrical engineering in 1949; he went on to receive a master's degree in engineering from the University of Illinois in Champaign; and

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WHEREAS, After working for Standard Oil Co. in Aruba, Allis-Chalmers in Milwaukee, and Bell Aircraft in Buffalo, Mr. Furstenau accepted a job as a research engineer at Lockheed International in California; while at Lockheed, he worked on the Polaris aircraft missile and assisted on the Apollo project; he also headed a team of engineers that developed the Light Pen, the precursor of the personal computer mouse; and

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WHEREAS, In the late 1960s, Mr. Furstenau began doing research for Lockheed at the Mayo Clinic in Rochester, Minnesota; his work was used to install the first mainframe computers at the National Institutes of Health in Bethesda, Maryland; he left the company in the early 1980s, after more than 20 years; and

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WHEREAS, Over the next 10 years, Mr. Furstenau was vice

1 president of information systems at Ingalls Hospital in
2 Harvey and later at Michael Reese Hospital in Chicago; he
3 retired in 1992; and

4 WHEREAS, Mr. Furstenau is survived by his loving wife of
5 50 years, Anne; his sons, Stephen, Michael, Charles, and
6 T.J.; his daughters, Anne Walker and Karen White; and 17
7 grandchildren; therefore, be it

8 RESOLVED, BY THE SENATE OF THE NINETY-THIRD GENERAL ASSEMBLY
9 OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, that we mourn the passing of
10 Burnell William "Burnie" Furstenau and express our sincere
11 and deepest sympathy to his family and friends; and be it
12 further

13 RESOLVED, That a suitable copy of this resolution be
14 presented to the family of Burnell William "Burnie" Furstenau
15 as an expression of our condolences during their time of
16 bereavement.