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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 Richard C. Wessell, Sr. of Des Plaines on June 27, 2003; and

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WHEREAS, Mr. Wessell was born April 27, 1922, in Chicago; he was the owner, editor, and publisher of the Journal & Topics newspapers in Des Plaines since 1946; he began his career as a reporter for Pickwick Newspapers in Park Ridge in June, 1935; he grew up on Chicago's North Side in the Edison Park area and attended Taft and Schurz High Schools, later graduating from Lake Forest College in Lake Forest, where he was editor of the student newspaper; and

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WHEREAS, During World War II, he was a gunnery officer and later commander of a Navy gunboat; he served during the battles of Iwo Jima and Okinawa; he married Mary Jane Hobson in 1944 during the war; after he was discharged in 1946, the couple bought a station wagon and embarked on a trip out West to find a community newspaper to buy; together they bought a single newspaper in 1946 and expanded it into a 16-publication group; headquartered in Des Plaines, the Journal & Topics newspapers, considered one of the best in Illinois, have won many regional, State and national awards over the last 57 years; recently, he and Mary Jane, turned over ownership of the group that serves 28 adjacent Northwest and North suburbs of Chicago to three of their children; and

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WHEREAS, Besides his journalistic career, he worked in the early 1950s for the Cook County Sheriff, Joseph Lohman, and in the late 1960s he was a press aide for then-Senator Birch Bayh of Indiana; and

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WHEREAS, Mr. Wessell's passing will be deeply felt by many, especially his wife, Mary Jane; his children, Stephen H. Wessell, Todd C. (Carolyn) Wessell, Richard C. (Cindy)

1 Wessell, Jr., Robert H. (Melanie) Wessell, Shelby J. (Walter)
2 Bogdan, and Christian M. "Kiki" (Patrick) Geoghegan; his
3 grandchildren, Emily, Thomas, Erin, Katie, Danny, Taylor,
4 Elliott, Josh, Zach, Amanda, Cassidy, Adam, and Flannery;
5 therefore, be it

6 RESOLVED, BY THE SENATE OF THE NINETY-THIRD GENERAL
7 ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, that we mourn the death of
8 Richard C. Wessell, Sr. along with all who knew and loved him
9 and extend our sincere condolences to his family and friends;
10 and be it further

11 RESOLVED, That a suitable copy of this resolution be
12 presented to the family of Richard C. Wessell, Sr. as an
13 expression of our deepest sympathy.