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SENATE RESOLUTION

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WHEREAS, The members of the Senate of the State of Illinois were shocked and saddened to learn of the death of their former colleague, U.S. Senator Paul Simon, of Makanda, on Tuesday, December 9, 2003; and

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WHEREAS, Senator Simon was born on November 29, 1928 in Eugene, Oregon to Reverend Martin Simon and his wife, Ruth; he attended Dana College in Nebraska; and

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WHEREAS, Senator Simon's success in politics began with the reformer's zeal he evidenced at the Troy Tribune, where he was a crusading owner-editor, the nation's youngest newspaper owner, before he was old enough to vote; he testified in 1951 before Senator Estes Kefauver's Crime Investigating Committee, and in 1954, after a two-year stint in the Army Counter Intelligence Corps along the Iron Curtain, he parlayed exposure of political corruption and organized crime in Madison County into a successful race for the Illinois House; and

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WHEREAS, Senator Simon served eight years in the House of Representatives, where he met his first wife, Jeanne Hurley of Wilmette, shortly after she was elected to the State legislature in 1956; they married in 1960, becoming the first husband-and-wife team in the history of the Illinois General Assembly; she preceded him in death in 2000; and

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WHEREAS, As a legislator, he was chief sponsor of the law that required governmental agencies at all levels to open their meetings to the public and the news media; he voluntarily disclosed his personal finances in his first race for the State legislature - long before any disclosure was required - and continued baring his finances in more detail than the law required throughout his political career; and

1 WHEREAS, In 1968, voters elected Republican Richard
2 Ogilvie as Governor and Democrat Paul Simon as Lieutenant
3 Governor, the only time in Illinois history that voters would
4 pair politicians of different parties for those offices; as
5 Lieutenant Governor, he held town meetings throughout the State
6 to field complaints about State government; following his term
7 as Lieutenant Governor, he started the public affairs reporting
8 program at Sangamon State University, now the University of
9 Illinois at Springfield; and

10 WHEREAS, In 1974, Senator Simon was elected to the U.S.
11 House of Representatives, serving 10 years until winning
12 election to the U.S. Senate; he held the seat for 12 years
13 before retiring in 1997; he helped overhaul the federal student
14 loan program to enable students and their families to borrow
15 directly from the government; he advocated for liberal causes
16 and increased funding for social programs, but he also
17 campaigned for a balanced budget amendment to the U.S.
18 Constitution; he was known to be a man of integrity and a voice
19 for the less fortunate; and

20 WHEREAS, Senator Simon wrote weekly newspaper columns for
21 46 years and authored or co-wrote more than 20 books between
22 1964 and 2003; his most recent book, "Our Culture of Pandering"
23 was published earlier this year; and

24 WHEREAS, Following his retirement from the U.S. Senate,
25 Senator Simon took up teaching, writing, and heading the Public
26 Policy Institute, a think tank which he founded at Southern
27 Illinois University Carbondale; he married Patricia Derge in
28 2001; he is the recipient of several honorary degrees and other
29 accolades; and

30 WHEREAS, The passing of Senator Paul Simon has been deeply
31 felt by many throughout the State of Illinois, but especially
32 by his wife, Patricia; his daughter, Sheila; his son, Martin;

1 and his step-daughter, Jennie Derge; therefore, be it

2 RESOLVED, BY THE SENATE OF THE NINETY-THIRD GENERAL
3 ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, that we mourn the passing of
4 Senator Paul Simon, a great man who will long be remembered for
5 his devotion to serving the least fortunate people of our
6 society, for his genuine personality, and his trademark bow-tie
7 and glasses; and be it further

8 RESOLVED, That a suitable copy of this resolution be
9 presented to the family of Senator Paul Simon as an expression
10 of our sincerest condolences during their time of bereavement.