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HOUSE RESOLUTION

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WHEREAS, The members of the House of Representatives of the State of Illinois were deeply saddened to learn of the death of Russell DeBerry, Sr. of Hillsboro on July 9, 2005; and

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WHEREAS, Mr. DeBerry was born December 24, 1941, in Ridgeley, Tennessee, to Doris DeBerry and Geneva (Evans) Whitfield; he had 11 siblings, James Whitfield, Herman Whitfield, Nolan Whitfield, Billy Whitfield, Wallace Whitfield, Cassandra Chairs, Faye Jackson, Marquette Rush, Betty Ann Chappel, Wilma Barner, and Patricia Baldwin; and

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WHEREAS, He grew up in Cairo, moved to Mt. Vernon, and later moved to Hillsboro in 1980; he married Gesta Herrod on May 5, 1964 in Cairo; and

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WHEREAS, He was retired from Graham Correctional Center in Hillsboro, where he had worked as a Correctional Officer; and

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WHEREAS, He was a member of the NAACP, the United Front Labor Local 1137, Forest of Lebanon Masonic Lodge 71, where he was a 32nd Degree Mason, and Morning Star Baptist Church in Cairo; he also attended St. James Baptist Church in Hillsboro; and

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WHEREAS, The passing of Russell DeBerry, Sr. is felt by all who knew and loved him, especially his wife, Gesta; his children, Druscilla DeBerry, Carmen Dalenzurla, Marcus DeBerry, Russell DeBerry, Jr., Rachel Davis, Jerri Lynn DeBerry, and Demetrious DeBerry; his 15 grandchildren, four of whom he and Gesta raised, Tamara DeBerry, Tameka DeBerry, Jamel Thompson, and Darius Clark; his special grandchild, Jade Nicole DeBerry; his three great-grandchildren; his special niece, Farica Grantham; and his special friend, Brad Fricke; therefore, be it

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1 RESOLVED, BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE
2 NINETY-FOURTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, that
3 we mourn the passing of Russell DeBerry, Sr. and extend to his
4 family and friends our thoughts and prayers during this
5 difficult time; and be it further

6 RESOLVED, That a suitable copy of this resolution be
7 presented to his family as an expression of our deepest
8 sympathy.