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SENATE RESOLUTION

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WHEREAS, The members of the Senate of the State of Illinois learned with regret of the death of Arthur "Bill" Tunell of Westmont on Saturday, February 25, 2006; and

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WHEREAS, Mr. Tunell was born in Chicago; his family moved to Westmont when he was a junior in high school; and

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WHEREAS, Shortly after Mr. Tunell graduated from what is now Downers Grove North High School, he enlisted in the United States Navy; he helped navigate Tank Landing Ship 380 during the invasion of Normandy during World War II; towards the end of the war, he volunteered for a mission and was trained to be part of Underwater Demolition Team 28, the predecessor to the Navy Seals; and

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WHEREAS, Mr. Tunell married his wife, Irma, in 1948; they had a loving relationship for almost 56 years; and

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WHEREAS, After the war, Mr. Tunell returned home and worked briefly at Western Electric; he then became a machinist for the Electro-Motive Division of General Motors, where he was also a part of General Motor's industrial fire department; and

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WHEREAS, Mr. Tunell became involved in volunteering with the Westmont Fire Department, where he became known as "Uncle Artie" to his fellow firefighters; upon retiring from General Motors in his early fifties, he was available for more nights and calls; he became a part-time firefighter and worked twelve-hour shifts; and

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WHEREAS, For twenty-seven years, Mr. Tunell spent most of his free time with the fire department; in 1994, a year before he retired, he was the recipient of the department's Firefighter of the Year Award; and

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1 WHEREAS, Mr. Tunell was a member of the Masonic Grove Lodge
2 and the First Presbyterian Church of Downers Grove, where he
3 was a former deacon and elder; he enjoyed working crossword
4 puzzles, playing pinochle, and bird-watching; and

5 WHEREAS, Mr. Tunell was truly part of that greatest
6 generation that came out of the Depression and fought in the
7 war; he was hard on the outside and soft on the inside; and

8 WHEREAS, He was preceded in death by his wife, Irma; and

9 WHEREAS, The passing of Arthur "Bill" Tunell has been
10 deeply felt by many, especially his daughter, Linda (Mark)
11 Johnson; his son, Mark (Barbara); his sister, Hesser Martin;
12 and his grandchildren, Adam and Ryan Clark, Grant, and
13 Samantha; therefore, be it

14 RESOLVED, BY THE SENATE OF THE NINETY-FOURTH GENERAL
15 ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, that we mourn the passing of
16 Arthur "Bill" Tunell, and we extend our sincerest condolences
17 to his family, friends, and all who knew and loved him; and be
18 it further

19 RESOLVED, That a suitable copy of this resolution be
20 presented to his family as an expression of our deepest
21 sympathy for their loss.