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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 Raymond J. Petka of Wheaton on Friday, March 24, 2006; and

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WHEREAS, Rajmund J. Petka was born on June 22, 1924, to Leo Jerome Petka and Marianna Drzewiecki; his mother preceded him in death in 1927; his father was remarried to Mary Jankowski, and she raised Ray and his siblings; and

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WHEREAS, He attended Kelly High School, where he was a pitcher on the team that finished second in the State; and

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WHEREAS, Mr. Petka enlisted in the U.S. Army when he was 17 in 1941; he forged his father's signature to allow his enlistment prior to reaching the age of 18; he served in the armored cavalry in the 1st Army Division under General Hodges; he trained in Wyoming, South Carolina, and Camp McCoy in Wisconsin; he went to New York to be deployed for the war, first arriving in Glasgow, Scotland; he trained further in Glochester, England; and

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WHEREAS, On June 6, 1944, his division was part of the invasion at Omaha Beach at Normandy; he was later honored by the nation of France for being a part of the invasion to liberate Normandy; he also participated in the Battle of the Bulge in Belgium under General Patton; and

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WHEREAS, When he arrived home from the war, he worked at Western Electric; he married Theresa Mary Zychlewicz on June 6, 1948; they were married for 57 years; and

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WHEREAS, The passing of Raymond J. Petka has been deeply felt by many; he was the loving father of Christine (Angelo) Corpora, Maryann (Ron) Sutter, Paul (Stephanie), and Louise

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1 (Russ) Mellecker; the cherished grandfather of Christopher,  
2 Stephanie, Michael, Jennifer, Hayden, Jordyn, Reagan, and  
3 Zachary; the dear brother of Verna (Bill) Skas, Gertrude  
4 Kriculi, Leo Petka, Edward (Phyllis) Petka, Jeanette Haluska,  
5 Lorraine Allerhand, and the late Daniel and Theresa Petka; and  
6 the uncle of many; therefore, be it

7 RESOLVED, BY THE SENATE OF THE NINETY-FOURTH GENERAL  
8 ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, that we mourn the passing of  
9 Raymond J. Petka, and we extend our sincere condolences to his  
10 family, friends, and all who knew and loved him; and be it  
11 further

12 RESOLVED, That a suitable copy of this resolution be  
13 presented to his family as an expression of our deepest  
14 sympathy.