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SENATE RESOLUTION

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WHEREAS, The members of the Illinois Senate are saddened to learn of the death of Leon Finney Sr. of Chicago, who passed away on April 4, 2008; and

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WHEREAS, Leon Finney Sr. was born in 1916 in Mississippi; he was the son of successful funeral home operator T.J. Huddleston; he moved to Chicago, where his aunt, Bertha Brody, lived; and

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WHEREAS, Leon Finney Sr. was the founder and owner of the Leon's Bar-B-Q chain; he founded the business in 1942, after the police broke up a bookie joint in the basement of a barbecue shop on East Garfield Boulevard in Chicago; after the raid, the owner offered to sell the barbecue restaurant for \$700, the price of the refrigerator; after his father wired him the money, he opened Leon's Bar-B-Q, which has since become a staple of Chicago's culinary history and is particularly known for its tangy and sweet barbeque sauce; and

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WHEREAS, Leon Finney Sr. was active in running his popular chain of restaurants until his health began to decline; and

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WHEREAS, Leon Finney Sr. was an active advocate of African-American business and community organizations, helping

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1 numerous African-Americans create many businesses in the City
2 of Chicago and beyond; and

3 WHEREAS, Leon Finney Sr. is survived by his six children,
4 Rev. Leon Finney Jr., Gwendlyn Woods, Michael, Michelle, Andre,
5 and Zenobia Rene; and his nine grandchildren; and

6 WHEREAS, Leon Finney Sr. will be remembered by all who knew
7 and loved him for his dedication to his profession and his
8 willingness to help his fellow entrepreneurs; therefore, be it

9 RESOLVED, BY THE SENATE OF THE NINETY-FIFTH GENERAL
10 ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, that we mourn, along with
11 his family and friends, the passing of Leon Finney Sr.; and be
12 it further

13 RESOLVED, That a suitable copy of this resolution be
14 presented to the family of Leon Finney Sr. as an expression of
15 our sympathy.