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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 Ernest Opp of Bethalto, who passed away on September 4, 2009; and

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WHEREAS, Ernest Opp was born on November 9, 1924 in Good Hope; he married Doris (Goddard) Opp on December 26, 1948 in Macomb; and

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WHEREAS, Ernest Opp served his country with pride and distinction as a submariner during World War II; and

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WHEREAS, Ernest Opp was raised in Bushnell; he attended the University of Illinois and graduated from Western Illinois University in 1949; and

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WHEREAS, Ernest Opp had a long and distinguished career as a teacher in the Havana and Bethalto school districts and at Lewis and Clark and Belleville-area colleges; he also taught at the St. Louis Regional Airport, where he gave the freedom of flight to thousands in his area through his student plane rides, flight instructions, and aerobatic shows; and

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WHEREAS, Ernest Opp gave the joy of music and history to thousands through his band and choral performances with the CM

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1 Band and Chorus and the Old Timers; he also shared his love of
2 boating and sailing with hundreds from Alton to the Florida
3 Keys and his love of motorcycles with friends from coast to
4 coast; and

5 WHEREAS, Ernest Opp was a lifetime member of Rotary, the
6 Masonic Lodge, VFW, the Experimental Aircraft Association, the
7 Illinois Pilots Association, Aerobatic Pilots, Western
8 Illinois Alumni, the Young Eagles, and the St. Louis Aero Club;
9 and

10 WHEREAS, Ernest Opp is survived by his children and their
11 spouses, Sharon Opp, Austin and Marg Opp, LaVeta and Kevin
12 Kirby, and Irene Opp; his grandchildren, Brandon and Lizz
13 Tinker, Ashleigh and Tim Peterson, Anthony and Fawn Tinker,
14 Kathleen, Jim and Jessica Kirby-Butts, Todd, Ty, and Corrie,
15 Sam and Melanie, and Ross Laux, Chris and Wendy Webster, and
16 Jared and Jen Watson; and his 7 great-grandchildren; therefore,
17 be it

18 RESOLVED, BY THE SENATE OF THE NINETY-SIXTH GENERAL
19 ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, that we mourn, along with
20 his family and friends, the passing of Ernest Opp; and be it
21 further

22 RESOLVED, That a suitable copy of this resolution be

1 presented to the family of Ernest Opp as an expression of our
2 sympathy.