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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 Dr. Thomas W. Nielsen Sr., who passed away on April 7, 2010; and

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WHEREAS, Thomas Nielsen Sr. was born on August 15, 1922, in Chicago; he was the son of Thorwald Peter and Nettie (Fladlien) Nielsen; he married his loving wife, Lorraine, on January 30, 1949, in Chicago; and

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WHEREAS, Thomas Nielsen Sr. enlisted in the United States Army on October 2, 1942, and served as a Platoon Sergeant in Company C, 342nd Infantry of the 86th "Blackhawk" Division during combat operations in France, Germany, and Austria; after the German surrender, he served in the Philippines until his honorable discharge on April 22, 1946; he was awarded the American, European-African-Middle Eastern, and Asiatic-Pacific Theater Service medals, among other service awards; and

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WHEREAS, Upon his return to the United States after World War II, Thomas Nielsen Sr. resumed his studies at the University of Illinois in Champaign-Urbana, where he earned his bachelor's degree in zoology, his master's degree in physiology, and his doctorate in physiology; and

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1           WHEREAS, Thomas Nielsen Sr. began his scientific and  
2 academic career by joining the faculty of the University of  
3 Colorado Medical School in Denver; he was later appointed to  
4 the faculty of the University of North Dakota Medical School as  
5 a Hill Research professor, where he continued his research and  
6 taught at the medical school; in the early 1970s, he was  
7 recruited by Southern Illinois University and appointed as a  
8 professor at the School of Dental Medicine, which brought him  
9 and his family to Alton; he finished his professional career at  
10 the National Institutes of Health, where he worked for more  
11 than a decade until his retirement in 1989 as Chief of the  
12 Cardiac Functions Branch; and

13           WHEREAS, Thomas Nielsen Sr. was a member of several  
14 professional, scientific, and social associations, including  
15 the American Society of Nephrology, the International Society  
16 of Nephrology, the American Association for the Advancement of  
17 Science, the American Institute of Biological Sciences, the  
18 American Society of Zoologists, the American Association of  
19 University Professors, the Association of American Medical  
20 Colleges, the American Physiological Society, the National  
21 Veterans of Foreign Wars Association, the Sigma Xi Scientific  
22 Research Society, Zeta Psi Fraternity, and SCORE; he also  
23 served as an elder of the First Presbyterian Church, where he  
24 also enjoyed organizing and participating in events hosted by  
25 its Over Fifty-Five Club; and

1           WHEREAS, Thomas Nielsen Sr. enjoyed oil painting, fishing,  
2 music, American Indian art, biblical archaeology, and  
3 collegiate and Rams football; most of all, he enjoyed traveling  
4 and dancing with his wife, fishing with his son, spending time  
5 with his daughters, and being thoroughly entertained by all his  
6 grandchildren; and

7           WHEREAS, Thomas Nielsen Sr. is survived by his wife; his  
8 children, Dr. Mary Nielsen, Dr. Joanne Graham, Thomas W.  
9 Nielsen Jr., and Lisa Nielsen; his daughters' spouses, Dr.  
10 James Shoemaker, Dr. Mike Graham, and Michael Moehn; his  
11 grandchildren, Kate, Laura, and Joanna Shoemaker, Eric and  
12 Matthew Graham, and Patrick and Anna Moehn; his brother, John  
13 B. Nielsen; his niece, Kathleen Nielsen; and his nephews, Dr.  
14 Mark Grauer and Dr. John Grauer; therefore, be it

15           RESOLVED, BY THE SENATE OF THE NINETY-SIXTH GENERAL  
16 ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, that we mourn, along with  
17 his family and friends, the passing of Dr. Thomas W. Nielsen  
18 Sr.; and be it further

19           RESOLVED, That a suitable copy of this resolution be  
20 presented to the family of Thomas Nielsen Sr. as an expression  
21 of our sympathy.