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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 James R. Rakow of Algonquin, who passed away on December 10, 2010; and

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WHEREAS, James Rakow was born on December 15, 1928, in Elgin; his parents were Waldemar Alvin and Jeanette (Taylor) Rakow; and

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WHEREAS, At an early age, James Rakow worked with his father in surveying business surveying roads in Kane, McHenry, and Lake Counties; in 1949, he graduated from Elgin High School; he then continued his education at Bradley University, where he graduated with a degree in engineering; and

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WHEREAS, James Rakow served his country with pride and distinction as a member of the United States Navy aboard the USS Cunningham during the Korean War; he graduated from Officer Candidate School in 1953 with the rank of Lieutenant Junior Grade; in 1967, he was honorably discharged from the U.S. Naval Reserve as a lieutenant; and

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WHEREAS, James Rakow was a partner with his father in WA Rakow Engineering & Surveying in Elgin for more than 15 years; he also worked for Baxter Woodmand in Crystal Lake; and

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1           WHEREAS, James Rakow served as the McHenry County  
2 Superintendent of Roads/Engineer for more than 24 years; during  
3 his tenure, he put in more than 11 years of legwork and played  
4 a vital role in procuring the right of way for the road  
5 connecting Route 31 with Randall Road, which was completed  
6 after he left the position; the road was named James R. Rakow  
7 Road in honor of his many contributions to its construction; he  
8 oversaw and planned the replacement of Pearl Street Bridge in  
9 McHenry, the Rawson Road Bridge, and many county bridges, which  
10 included widening of the pavement and shoulders; he was  
11 instrumental in the building of the Charles Miller Bridge in  
12 McHenry, having helped purchase the land and engineering the  
13 roads east and west of the new bridge; he was actively involved  
14 with local, township, and county agencies in the development,  
15 expansion, and improvement of numerous roads, including the  
16 Randall Road north/south corridor, the Algonquin Road  
17 widening, and the Northern Algonquin Bypass (now known as the  
18 Western Algonquin Bypass); he was responsible for the  
19 construction and maintenance of more than 200 miles of county  
20 roads; he worked diligently to reconfigure the Township Highway  
21 Commissioner operations; he promoted and aided in the  
22 development of the current McHenry County Zoning and  
23 Subdivision Ordinances; he also laid the groundwork for McHenry  
24 County Stormwater Ordinance and upgraded the Highway  
25 Department to meet the demands of the 21st century; and

1           WHEREAS, James Rakow served as an adviser to and board  
2 member of CATS (Chicago Area Transit System) and was actively  
3 involved with numerous area engineering associations and  
4 societies; from 1993 to 2005, he was employed at SEC Group Inc.  
5 in McHenry; and

6           WHEREAS, James Rakow was very active with the Elgin YMCA in  
7 his younger years; he enjoyed playing racquetball and handball,  
8 golfing, boating, crossword puzzles, the Chicago Bears, and the  
9 Chicago Cubs; he also enjoyed traveling with his wife in the  
10 British Virgin Islands on various sailing vessels; and

11           WHEREAS, James Rakow was preceded in death by his parents;  
12 his stepmother, Lois Rakow Graning; his son, Steven Rakow; and  
13 his grandson, Alex Grossman; and

14           WHEREAS, James Rakow is survived by his best friend and  
15 loving wife, Phyllis K. Walters; his loving children, Diane  
16 (Charles) Griffin, Ansley Webster, Andrea Walters, and Anthony  
17 (Sheri) Walters; his cherished grandchildren, Luke, Jessica,  
18 and Rebecca Grossman, Jennifer (Michael) Tramantana, April  
19 Molenda, Laurin Adeniran, Abigail Lindahl, and Ashley,  
20 Benjamin, and Cole Walters; his treasured great-grandchildren,  
21 Len Molenda-Nichols and Destiny Molenda-Nichols; his sister,  
22 Ruth Ann Rakow Crandall; his brother-in-law, Chris Kobel; and

1 his sister-in-law, Marie Holtz; therefore, be it

2 RESOLVED, BY THE SENATE OF THE NINETY-SIXTH GENERAL  
3 ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, that we mourn, along with  
4 his family and friends, the passing of James R. Rakow; and be  
5 it further

6 RESOLVED, That a suitable copy of this resolution be  
7 presented to the family of James Rakow as an expression of our  
8 sympathy.