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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 Joe M. Johnson, who passed away on December 24, 2010; and

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WHEREAS, Joe Johnson was born in Louisville, Kentucky; he was the son of Martin and Lucille Johnson; and

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WHEREAS, After graduating from Truman State University in northeast Missouri, Joe Johnson spent 4 years coaching and teaching high school in the Ozarks before moving to Palatine; and

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WHEREAS, Joe Johnson established a successful track program over the course of 30 years at Palatine High School, where, under his leadership, numerous students became individual State champions and 12 teams advanced to the Illinois High School Association State meets; his 1981 cross country team finished 2nd in the state; he was inducted into the Palatine High School Athletic Hall of Fame and the Illinois Track and Cross Country Coaches' Hall of Fame in honor of his many accomplishments in track and field; in 1992, Joe retired from his career and moved to Tucson, Arizona with his loving wife, Andrea Meskan Johnson; and

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1 WHEREAS, Joe Johnson was a dedicated and decorated runner;
2 he completed the Boston Marathon and earned countless medals to
3 memorialize his personal victories around the country; and

4 WHEREAS, Joe Johnson was preceded in death by his wife; and

5 WHEREAS, Joe Johnson is survived by his daughter, Jenny
6 Cope Warden (Eric) and their 3 children; his 3 cousins in the
7 Midwest and their families; his brothers-in-law, Bill and Jeff
8 Meskan; his companion, Patricia Grizzard; and his many friends
9 and countless former athletes and colleagues; therefore, be it

10 RESOLVED, BY THE SENATE OF THE NINETY-SIXTH GENERAL
11 ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, that we mourn, along with
12 his family and friends, the passing of Joe M. Johnson; and be
13 it further

14 RESOLVED, That a suitable copy of this resolution be
15 presented to the family of Joe Johnson as an expression of our
16 sympathy.