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SENATE RESOLUTION

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WHEREAS, Senator Louis S. "Lou" Viverito represented the citizens of the State of Illinois and the families of the 11th Legislative District from January of 1995 until January of 2011; and

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WHEREAS, Louis S. "Lou" Viverito was born and raised on the South Side of Chicago in the working class community of Bridgeview; he attended McClellan Grammar School and Tilden Tech High School; and

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WHEREAS, Senator Viverito's career is marked by a sincere and fervent dedication to serve his community, his State, and his country; and

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WHEREAS, Senator Viverito served his nation in the United States Army during the Korean War; during his service, he was decorated on three occasions; and

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WHEREAS, Senator Viverito began his career as an elected official in 1969, when he was selected to serve as Stickney Township Democratic Committeeman; he also served as a delegate at the 1972 Democratic National Convention and was elected to serve as Stickney Township Supervisor and Chairman of the Township's Public Health District in 1973; and

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1 WHEREAS, Senator Viverito's leadership in the area of
2 township government has been recognized by many; under his
3 direction, Stickney Township and the numerous services it
4 provides to residents has often been cited as a model of
5 township government; and

6 WHEREAS, Senator Viverito also served as
7 Secretary-Treasurer and Vice President of the Cook County
8 Township Supervisors Association from 1976 until 1977, as
9 Commissioner of the Metropolitan Sanitary District of Greater
10 Chicago from 1980 until 1986, and as a member of the Cook
11 County Zoning Board of Appeals from 1987 until his election to
12 the Illinois Senate; and

13 WHEREAS, Senator Viverito was elected to the Illinois State
14 Senate in 1994 and was sworn in as a member of the Senate in
15 1995; and

16 WHEREAS, Over the last 15 years, Senator Viverito has been
17 a strong advocate for the communities he represents, including
18 Berwyn, Bedford Park, Bridgeview, Brookfield, Burbank,
19 Chicago, Indian Head Park, Justice, LaGrange, Lyons, McCook,
20 Riverside, Summit, Stickney, and Willow Springs; and

21 WHEREAS, Senator Viverito's career in the Illinois Senate

1 has been highlighted by his strong commitment to improve the
2 quality of life and safety in local communities; and

3 WHEREAS, Senator Viverito has worked to advance
4 initiatives to expand health care opportunities, including his
5 sponsorship of legislation allowing townships to establish
6 health care facilities for their citizens; and

7 WHEREAS, Senator Viverito has also been a strong voice on
8 behalf of Illinois' senior citizens, which he showed by passing
9 a law expanding the number of seniors eligible for the property
10 tax assessment freeze, providing tax relief to thousands of
11 seniors throughout Illinois; and

12 WHEREAS, Senator Viverito is recognized by his colleagues
13 in the Illinois General Assembly as a true patriot with a
14 boundless appreciation for his fellow servicemen and women; he
15 has received the appreciation of many service families after he
16 championed the increase of line of duty awards for families of
17 soldiers killed in Iraq and Afghanistan to ease the financial
18 burden these families experience at the most difficult period
19 in their lives; and

20 WHEREAS, Throughout his tenure in the Senate, Senator
21 Viverito has ascended to several leadership positions,
22 including Minority Caucus Whip during the 91st General

1 Assembly, Assistant Majority Leader during the 92nd, 93rd,
2 94th, and 95th General Assemblies, and Majority Caucus Whip
3 during the 96th General Assembly; and

4 WHEREAS, Senator Viverito has served as a member on a
5 variety of different Senate Committees, including the Senate
6 Executive Committee and the Senate Committees on
7 Appropriations, Elections, Executive Appointments, Financial
8 Institutions, Higher Education, Rules, and State Government
9 and Veterans Affairs; he also served as Chairman of the Senate
10 Revenue Committee during the 96th General Assembly; and

11 WHEREAS, Senator Viverito has been active in a variety of
12 community organizations; he has served as Local Chairman of the
13 Chicago Lung Association, a former Chairman of the Burbank
14 Chamber of Commerce, an associate member of the Crisis Center
15 of South Suburbia for Abused Women, a life member of the
16 Veterans of Foreign Wars, a member of the American Legion, and
17 a former member of the Moraine Valley Community College
18 Economic Development Board; and

19 WHEREAS, Senator Viverito has received a number of awards
20 and honors in recognition of his strong efforts to support his
21 community, including the "Man of the Year" award from the Joint
22 Civic Committee of Italian-Americans, the "Outstanding
23 Legislator" award from the Illinois Health Care Association in

1 1999, "Democratic Legislator of the Year" from the Illinois
2 State Crime Commission in 2000, an induction into the Valentine
3 Boys and Girls Club Hall of Fame, and the 2010 "Legislator of
4 the Year" award from the South Suburban Park and Recreation
5 Professional Association; and

6 WHEREAS, Senator Viverito has also been commended for his
7 community service from a variety of other groups, including the
8 Burbank-Bridgeview Lions Club, the Boy Scouts of America, and
9 the Stickney Senior Citizen's Council on Aging; and

10 WHEREAS, Senator Viverito is also recognized as an
11 outstanding family man who married his wonderful wife and
12 partner, Carolyn; the couple settled in unincorporated Cook
13 County (now Burbank) shortly after his discharge from the Army;
14 and

15 WHEREAS, Senator Viverito and his wife raised a son and two
16 daughters; they are also the proud grandparents of five
17 grandsons; and

18 WHEREAS, Senator Viverito will be missed by his colleagues
19 for his willingness to work with others, his candor in debate,
20 and his firm commitment to the citizens in his district; and

21 WHEREAS, Senator Viverito's record of service to his

1 country and his State spans nearly five decades and is a
2 testament to his strong belief that public service is a noble
3 profession; therefore, be it

4 RESOLVED, BY THE SENATE OF THE NINETY-SEVENTH GENERAL
5 ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, that we thank Senator Louis
6 S. "Lou" Viverito for his 15 years of service to the people of
7 Illinois and honor him with this resolution; and be it further

8 RESOLVED, That a suitable copy of this resolution be
9 presented to Lou Viverito as a symbol of our gratitude and with
10 our best wishes for his future endeavors.