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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 Vincent C. Gregory of East St. Louis, who passed away on March 8, 2012; and

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WHEREAS, Vincent Gregory was born on November 21, 1934, in St Louis, Missouri; his parents were Pearl "Speedy" Gregory and Lovie Hudson Gregory; he married Eleanor E. Gregory in 1974; and

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WHEREAS, Vincent Gregory graduated from Lincoln Senior High School in 1951; he subsequently attended the University of Illinois until he left school to enlist in the United States Navy, where he served as a machinist on a repair ship; at the time of his discharge, he served as a shore policeman; after his discharge, he returned to his hometown of East St. Louis, where he began working for the United States Postal Service; and

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WHEREAS, After working for the USPS for several years, Vincent Gregory decided to become an entrepreneur; the first of his many business ventures in East St. Louis was a service station called "Vince 66"; he later opened a night club named "Swahili"; in 1973, he opened "Mello Freeze", which would become a part of his legacy; during this time, he also worked

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1 as an independent contractor for H.H. Hall Construction; and

2 WHEREAS, Vincent Gregory enjoyed cars, playing and
3 watching tennis, and traveling with his family; during his
4 life, he traveled to 6 of the 7 continents; and

5 WHEREAS, Vincent Gregory was preceded in death by his
6 parents; his grandparents; his parents-in-law; and numerous
7 aunts, uncles, and cousins; and

8 WHEREAS, Vincent Gregory is survived by his loving wife,
9 Eleanor; his daughter, Carla; his sons, Brian and Larry; his
10 grandchildren, Lyndsey, Tiffany, Larry D. II, C.J. Larry,
11 Gabrielle (GiGi), and Jillian; his great-grandchildren,
12 Diamond and Tori; his aunts, Alice Cason, Deloris Jackson
13 Hudson, and Mary Gregory; his cousin and best friend, Harold
14 Gregory; the young men whom he loved and mentored, Terry,
15 Marlon, Dennis, Kevin, Harold Jr., Jordan, Julian, and Dimechi;
16 and his many nephews, nieces, cousins, god-children, friends,
17 church family, and neighbors; therefore, be it

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

1 RESOLVED, That a suitable copy of this resolution be
2 presented to the family of Vincent Gregory as an expression of
3 our sympathy.