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SENATE RESOLUTION

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WHEREAS, The members of the Illinois Senate are deeply
3 saddened to learn of the death of Gerhart Kopf of Fulton, who
4 died on August 10, 2012; and

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WHEREAS, Gerhart Kopf was born in Eddyville, Nebraska, on
6 December 29, 1919, to Niels and Lydia Struempler Kopf; he
7 married Alice L. Schmidt on July 7, 1941; they celebrated their
8 70th anniversary in 2011; and

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10 WHEREAS, Gerhart Kopf was raised on a homestead ranch in
11 Dawson County, Nebraska, and attended a one-room school through
12 the eighth grade; he graduated from Lexington High School,
13 where he developed his gift to play piano by ear and played
14 with a midwest traveling swing band during the Big Band Era; he
15 attended the University of Nebraska before returning to the
16 ranch during the Great Depression; he remained an ardent
Nebraska Cornhuskers fan; and

17

18 WHEREAS, Gerhart Kopf served in the U.S. Army during World
19 War II and later farmed near Eddyville, Nebraska; he worked for
20 Steckley Hybrid Corn Company in Lincoln and Grand Island and
21 eventually settled in Fulton in 1955; he worked for Drives Inc.
until 1981 and traveled extensively in the U.S. and Canada; and

1 WHEREAS, Gerhart Kopf established the Bald Eagle Nursery
2 outside Fulton in 1981 and became a respected authority on
3 ornamental grasses, chestnuts, hazelnuts, and hicans; he was
4 instrumental in developing the Twin Ponds Research Farm near
5 Galena Territory; he was a respected advocate and expert on
6 bluebirds and shared his knowledge of chimney swift migration
7 and lectured on local geologic history; and

8 WHEREAS, Gerhart Kopf served on the Fulton School Board and
9 as an elder at his church; he was honored as Grand Marshal of
10 the 2001 Dutch Days and was awarded a key to the city of
11 Fulton; he continued to play piano in venues such as the
12 Clinton Country Club and Fulton Senior Citizen Center; he
13 enjoyed fine wine and dining, especially New Orleans cuisine;
14 he looked forward to playing euchre with his friends and took
15 great pride in becoming co-champion of the 3rd Annual Euchre
16 Tournament in January of 2011; and

17 WHEREAS, Gerhart Kopf was preceded in death by his parents,
18 Niels and Lydia Struempler; his brothers, Ferdinand, Donald,
19 and Aaron; and his sister, Arleen; and

20 WHEREAS, Gerhart Kopf is survived by his wife, Alice
21 Schmidt; his children, Connie (Dean) Long, Trudy (Michael)
22 Landwirth, Pamela (Glenn) Gealy, Kyle (Kim) and Kendall; his
23 grandchildren, Christina and Joseph (Marie) Long, Amy

1 Landwirth, Matthew and Rachel Gealy, and Kelly, Scott, and
2 Nicholas Kopf; his great-grandson, Orion Long; his sister,
3 Dolores; and many nieces and nephews; therefore, be it

4 RESOLVED, BY THE SENATE OF THE NINETY-SEVENTH GENERAL
5 ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, that we mourn the death of
6 Gerhart Kopf, and we extend our sincere condolences to his
7 family, friends, and all who knew and loved him; and be it
8 further

9 RESOLVED, That a suitable copy of this resolution be
10 presented to the family of Gerhart Kopf as an expression of our
11 deepest sympathy.