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HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION

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WHEREAS, The Illinois General Assembly takes pride in recognizing the accomplishments and contributions of State officials and citizens; and

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WHEREAS, In recognition of the lasting legacy and many sacrifices that Alan J. Dixon made for the citizenry of the State, the General Assembly wishes to bestow upon him the rare distinction of naming a public building in his honor; and

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WHEREAS, Alan J. Dixon spent his life serving the people of the State and was known for his work ethic and ability to foster cooperation and compromise across party lines; and

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WHEREAS, Alan J. Dixon was born in Belleville on July 7, 1927; he graduated from Belleville Township High School, earned his bachelor's degree in 1949 from the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, and earned his Juris Doctor from Washington University School of Law in St. Louis, Missouri; he served in the United States Navy Air Corps during World War II and began his 43-year political career in law school when he was elected to serve as Belleville Police Magistrate; and

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WHEREAS, At the age of 22, Alan J. Dixon was elected one of the youngest legislators ever to serve in the Illinois House of

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1 Representatives, and served as a State Representative from 1951
2 to 1963; he was an advocate for higher education and
3 co-sponsored legislation that produced Illinois's community
4 college system; and

5 WHEREAS, Alan J. Dixon served in the Illinois State Senate
6 from 1963 to 1971, rising to Assistant Democratic Leader; and

7 WHEREAS, Alan J. Dixon was elected to serve as Illinois
8 Treasurer from 1971 to 1977; from 1977 to 1981, he served as
9 Illinois Secretary of State, an office he won by a margin of
10 1,300,000 votes; and

11 WHEREAS, In 1980, Alan J. Dixon won his first election to
12 the United States Senate by more than 600,000 votes; he won his
13 re-election to the United States Senate in 1986 by more than
14 950,000 votes; he served until 1993; and

15 WHEREAS, In 1988, and again in 1990, Alan J. Dixon was
16 unanimously selected by his party colleagues to serve as the
17 Chief Deputy Whip of the United States Senate, the number 3
18 leadership post; he enjoyed an unbroken string of 29 election
19 victories; and

20 WHEREAS, At the request of President Bill Clinton, Alan J.
21 Dixon served as Chairman of the Defense Base Closure and

1 Realignment Commission in 1994 and 1995, a job that called for
2 both national defense knowledge and good political ties with
3 both Democrats and Republicans; as former Chairman of the
4 Senate Armed Services Subcommittee he was mutually respected by
5 both parties; and

6 WHEREAS, Alan J. Dixon was a partner with the St. Louis,
7 Missouri based law firm, Bryan Cave, LLP, where he served
8 corporate and government clients; and

9 WHEREAS, Lindenwood University-Belleville, formerly the
10 Belleville Township High School, named its student center after
11 Alan J. Dixon in 2011 in his honor and thanked him for his
12 achievements and efforts on behalf of his hometown of
13 Belleville; and

14 WHEREAS, Alan J. Dixon's memoir, "The Gentleman from
15 Illinois: Stories from Forty Years of Elective Public Service",
16 was published in 2013 by Southern Illinois University Press;
17 and

18 WHEREAS, Alan J. Dixon died in his home on July 6, 2014,
19 one day shy of his 87th birthday; he is survived by his spouse
20 of 60 years, Joan "Jody" Fox Dixon; 3 children, Stephanie,
21 Jeffrey, and Elizabeth; 8 grandchildren; and 7
22 great-grandchildren; therefore, be it

1 RESOLVED, BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE
2 NINETY-EIGHTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, THE
3 SENATE CONCURRING HEREIN, that we designate the State of
4 Illinois building that houses the Illinois State Museum at 502
5 South Spring Street in Springfield as the "Alan J. Dixon
6 Building"; and be it further

7 RESOLVED, That a suitable copy of this resolution be
8 presented to Alan J. Dixon's surviving spouse, Joan "Jody" Fox
9 Dixon and to the Department of Natural Resources.