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HOUSE RESOLUTION

2           WHEREAS, The members of the Illinois House of  
3 Representatives are saddened to learn of the death of John  
4 Henry Duffin of Ottawa, who passed away on December 7, 2012;  
5 and

6           WHEREAS, John Duffin was born on June 11, 1929, in Oshkosh,  
7 Nebraska; his parents were John H. and Mary Elizabeth Duffin;  
8 he married Beverly Barger on December 31, 1949; and

9           WHEREAS, After the passing of his father and his mother's  
10 remarriage 3 years later, John Duffin and his family moved west  
11 and settled in La Grande, Oregon, where he completed high  
12 school; after a short stint at Eastern Oregon University, he  
13 set his sights on an acting career and left Oregon for the  
14 University of Iowa School of Drama; while in Iowa City, he met  
15 and fell in love with his future wife; the couple later moved  
16 to Des Moines, Iowa, to be closer to her family; and

17           WHEREAS, After moving to Des Moines, John Duffin worked a  
18 series of jobs before finally working third shift at an  
19 aircraft factory while he completed his bachelor's degree at  
20 Drake University in Des Moines; rather than pursuing acting, he  
21 entered a lifelong career in education; he later earned a  
22 master's degree in fine arts at the University of Iowa; he

1 accepted a position teaching high school speech and English and  
2 taught for several years in Iowa; in 1963, he accepted a  
3 position at Ottawa High School (OHS) and stayed there for 26  
4 years, teaching speech and English until his retirement in  
5 1989; he also served as chairman of the English department at  
6 OHS for 20 years; and

7 WHEREAS, John Duffin was a recipient of a Master Teacher  
8 Award from the State of Illinois for his work in education; and

9 WHEREAS, John Duffin enjoyed coaching competitive speech  
10 and directing high school plays; with the help of talented  
11 colleagues and dedicated students, he built highly successful  
12 speech teams and enjoyed many successes over the years; his  
13 reputation among his peers was excellent and he was honored by  
14 being elected president of the Illinois Speech and Theater  
15 Association for a year; and

16 WHEREAS, Following his retirement, John Duffin secured a  
17 position teaching speech and English at Patch High School at a  
18 U.S. military base in Stuttgart, Germany, in 1989; once he and  
19 his wife returned from Germany, they continued traveling in the  
20 United States whenever they could, including their winter  
21 vacations in Tempe, Arizona; and

22 WHEREAS, John Duffin was the author of a series of 12

1 dramatic skits about the history of Ottawa; he worked with many  
2 others to stage the skits and musical accompaniment at an  
3 Ottawa Riverfest summer celebration outdoors; and

4 WHEREAS, John Duffin was preceded in death by his dear  
5 wife, Beverly; and

6 WHEREAS, John Duffin is survived by his children and their  
7 families, John T. Duffin and his children, Conor (Danielle) and  
8 Kirstin; Sally (David) Hass and their children, Stephen and  
9 Deborah; Julie (Jim) Wajrowski and her son, Brandon Duffin  
10 (Karisa); William (Cindy) Duffin and their children, Anna,  
11 Blake, and Luke; James (Gloria) Duffin and their children,  
12 Garrett, Liam, and Meghan; and Susan (Rich) Navratil and their  
13 children, Caitlin and Nathan; he is also survived by his  
14 sister, Betty (Ray) Hyde, and their children, Gene (Lynn) Hyde,  
15 Emily, and Stella; Tom Hyde and his children, Austin and  
16 McKenna; and his wife's nephew, Garry (Nancie) Gloschen, and  
17 their daughters, Braedi Gloschen and Kindra (Tony) Kapsch, and  
18 their daughter, Anslee, and her son, Caden; therefore, be it

19 RESOLVED, BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE  
20 NINETY-EIGHTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, that  
21 we mourn, along with his family and friends, the passing of  
22 John Henry Duffin; and be it further

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