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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 John Henry Duffin of Ottawa, who passed away on December 7, 2012; and

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

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

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WHEREAS, After moving to Des Moines, John Duffin worked a series of jobs before finally working third shift at an aircraft factory while he completed his bachelor's degree at Drake University in Des Moines; rather than pursuing acting, he entered a lifelong career in education; he later earned a master's degree in fine arts at the University of Iowa; he accepted a position teaching high school speech and English and

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

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

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

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

21 WHEREAS, John Duffin was the author of a series of 12
22 dramatic skits about the history of Ottawa; he worked with many

1 others to stage the skits and musical accompaniment at an
2 Ottawa Riverfest summer celebration outdoors; and

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

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

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