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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 Royce W. Elliott of East Peoria, who passed away on April 21, 2013; and

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WHEREAS, Royce Elliott was born on March 29, 1936, in Stephenville, Texas; his parents were Earl and Loretta Elliott; he married Helen Milford on October 14, 1961; and

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WHEREAS, Royce Elliott graduated from Woodruff High School, where he played baseball, basketball, and football and participated in choir; he later attended Western Illinois University, where he played football and baseball, and Bradley University; and

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WHEREAS, Royce Elliott was best known as "America's funniest clean comedian"; he traveled all over North America performing as an emcee for sports, corporate, and charity events; he entertained at numerous venues, such as Bally's Las Vegas, The Grand Ole Opry, and Atlantic City; he also performed his routine at the Stadium Club in Peoria, Two Brother's Tap, and local baseball fields; and

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WHEREAS, Royce Elliott made dozens of national television appearances on "The Ralph Emery Show", "Crook and Chase",

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1 "Nashville Now", and "The Statler Brothers Show"; he worked  
2 with many celebrities, including Frank Sinatra, Lou Rawls, Rich  
3 Little, Barbara Mandrell, Vince Gill, and Conway Twitty; he  
4 also worked sports banquets and fantasy camps with sports stars  
5 Lou Brock, Bob Gibson, Fergie Jenkins, Terry Bradshaw, Jack  
6 Buck, Harry Caray, and many others; and

7 WHEREAS, After semi-retiring, Royce Elliott worked locally  
8 as a co-host of "Breakfast With Royce and Roger", where he  
9 connected with his all-time favorite comedian, Jonathan  
10 Winters; he spent most Thursday mornings at the Sterling Family  
11 Restaurant with good friends from the ROMEO club; and

12 WHEREAS, Royce Elliott enjoyed sports and coaching and  
13 sponsoring local teams; he played for several years in the  
14 Peoria Sunday Morning League and played fast pitch softball for  
15 about 20 years; Elliott's Jesters sponsored fast pitch teams,  
16 park district men's basketball teams, and youth track teams; he  
17 also coached in the Salvation Army Bidy Basketball league and  
18 West Peoria Little League; and

19 WHEREAS, Royce Elliott was preceded in death by his  
20 parents; his daughter, Rhonda Elizabeth Elliott; and his  
21 sister, Ruth; and

22 WHEREAS, Royce Elliott is survived by his wife, Helen; his

1 children, Tye (Elizabeth) Elliott, Brian Elliott, Hedy (Zeb)  
2 Gardner, and Brett Elliott (fiancee, Devon Courtney); his  
3 grandchildren, Brooke, Mitch, Beau, Morgan, Brayden, Romi,  
4 Gia, and Devon's sons, Mason and Ayden; and his brother, Billy  
5 Elliott; therefore, be it

6 RESOLVED, BY THE SENATE OF THE NINETY-EIGHTH GENERAL  
7 ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, that we mourn, along with  
8 his family and friends, the passing of Royce W. Elliott; and be  
9 it further

10 RESOLVED, That a suitable copy of this resolution be  
11 presented to the family of Royce Elliott as an expression of  
12 our sympathy.