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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 William B. Johnson of Lake Forest, who passed away on April 23, 2013; and

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WHEREAS, William Johnson was born in 1919 in Salisbury, Maryland, and graduated maxima cum laude from Washington College in 1940, where he was president of the Student Government Association and a member of the tennis team; he attended the University of Pennsylvania Law School where he was editor-in-chief of the law review, graduating in 1943; and

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WHEREAS, William Johnson worked as an attorney with the United States Tax Court from 1945 to 1947; he became an assistant solicitor for the Pennsylvania Railroad and then in 1959 went to head the Railroad Express Agency before landing at IC Industries and the Illinois Central Railroad in 1966; and

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WHEREAS, William Johnson enjoyed a 33-year career with IC Industries and the Illinois Central Railroad and built the company into a global giant; during that time he was elected president and chief operating officer of the Illinois Central Railroad and its parent, IC Industries in 1966; and

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WHEREAS, Under the leadership of William Johnson, the

1 Illinois Central was merged with Gulf, Mobile, & Ohio Railroad
2 and ultimately sold to Canadian National in 1999; during his
3 time with IC Industries, he oversaw the acquisition of over 100
4 companies, including Abex, Whitman Chocolate, Old El Paso, and
5 Dad's Root Beer; and

6 WHEREAS, During his business career, William Johnson was a
7 director of many corporations including Perdue Farms, Lear
8 Siegler's ownership committee, Swiss Air Advisory Board, Trans
9 Union Corporation, Broadcasting, Whitman Corporation,
10 Continental Bank, Esmark, Pet Foods, Midas, Abex, Pepsi-Cola
11 General Bottlers, and Lincoln Financial; he was a member of the
12 board of trustees of the University of Chicago, the board of
13 overseers of the University of Pennsylvania Law School, and the
14 board of Governors of Washington College, where he received an
15 honorary doctorate; and

16 WHEREAS, In 1985, Crain's Chicago Business named William
17 Johnson its Businessman of the Year and in 1986 he received
18 Loyola's Damen Award for Civic Leadership; he received the
19 lifetime achievement award from the railroad industry, the
20 Harry E. Salzburg Memorial Medal for outstanding achievement in
21 the field of transportation, and established a chair in
22 corporate law at the University of Pennsylvania; and

23 WHEREAS, William Johnson is survived by his wife of 70

1 years, Mary Barb Johnson; his sons, Kirk Johnson and Benjamin
2 H. Johnson; his daughter, Kathleen Johnson; and his 6
3 grandchildren; therefore, be it

4 RESOLVED, BY THE SENATE OF THE NINETY-EIGHTH GENERAL
5 ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, that we mourn the passing of
6 William Johnson, and 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 William Johnson as an expression of
11 our deepest sympathy.