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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 Harold A. "Pete" Vonachen Jr. of Peoria, who passed away on June 10, 2013; and

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WHEREAS, Harold Vonachen Jr. was born on August 31, 1925, in Peoria to Dr. Harold A. and Bernice (Verner) Vonachen; he served in the U.S. Navy during World War II and upon returning attended Bradley University, graduating in 1949; he married Donna J. Hurst on May 11, 1957, in Peoria; and

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WHEREAS, Harold Vonachen Jr. began his business career by working in the food industry, taking a part-time job running Field House concessions at Bradley University; he moved to Murphy's in 1953, where he worked as a maitre'd; in 1955, he opened his own business, Vonachen's Junction in the Junction City shopping area; he began to branch out from the food industry and from 1965 to 1976 served as the general manager and investor in Vonachen's Hyatt Lodge; he sold the restaurant in 1970 and became president of Peoria Blacktop Inc.; in 1978, he became the general partner and developer for Days Inn Motel in Peoria until 1985; and

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WHEREAS, Harold Vonachen Jr.'s baseball career began in 1983 when he purchased the Peoria Chiefs minor league baseball

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1 team; and

2 WHEREAS, Harold Vonachen Jr. lifetime achievements
3 consisted of commodore and board of directors for the Illinois
4 Valley Yacht and Canoe Club, president of the Peoria Pacers
5 College Baseball Team, director of the Greater Peoria Sports
6 Hall of Fame, director of the Peoria Cerebral Palsy Board,
7 board member of the St. Thomas Parochial School Board,
8 president and member of the advisory board of OSF St. Francis
9 Medical Center, vice-president and trustee of the Peoria Park
10 District, chairman of the Liquor Commission for the City of
11 Peoria, member of the State of Illinois Recreational Advisory
12 Committee, board member of the Bradley University Chiefs' Club,
13 honorary member of the Bradley University B-Club, director and
14 president of Peoria Mobile Medic Ambulance Co., member of the
15 board of trustees for Bradley University, chairman of the
16 Salvation Army Tree of Lights, honorary chairman of the
17 Children's Miracle Network Telethon at the Children's Hospital
18 of Illinois, board member for the Children's Hospital of
19 Illinois, member of the Ivy Club, member of the Peoria Country
20 Club, and member of the Independent Sports Club; and

21 WHEREAS, Harold Vonachen Jr. was awarded the Neve Harms
22 Meritorious Service Sports Award in 1979, inducted into the
23 Greater Sports Hall of Fame in 1979, awarded the Bradley
24 University Distinguished Alumni Award in 1985, the Sporting

1 News Professional Baseball Class A Minor League Executive of
2 the Year in 1985, the Midwest League Executive of the Year in
3 1985, the Tri-County Sports Figure of the Year in 1985, the
4 Bradley University Centurion in 1986, the University of Notre
5 Dame Man of the Year in 1988, inducted into the Greater Peoria
6 Sports Hall of Fame in 1988, awarded the Caterpillar Community
7 Service Award, the Salvation Army "Other" Award in 1991, the
8 Lewis Burger Outstanding Volunteer Fundraising Award in 1992,
9 the National Society of Fundraising Executives Philanthropy
10 Award in 1992, inducted into the Bradley University Sports Hall
11 of Fame in 1994, awarded the Robert H. Michael Lifetime
12 Achievement Award in 2002, the Ambassador of Baseball-State of
13 Illinois' Chicago Pitch and Hit Club Award in 2005, the Lions
14 Club Outstanding Achievement Award in 2008, and the Lifetime
15 Achievement Award for J.J. Anderson Basketball Club in 2009;
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17 WHEREAS, Harold Vonachen Jr. was preceded in death by his
18 wife, Donna; his parents; his brothers, Jack and Tom; and his
19 sisters, Mary Ann, Bobbie, and Marta; and

20 WHEREAS, Harold Vonachen Jr. is survived by his daughter,
21 Mary "Mikie" Shadid; his sons, Rocky, Greg (Kathy), Dan
22 (Jennifer), and Mark (Amy); his sister, Susie (Jim) Dawson; and
23 his grandchildren, Megan Vonachen, Lauren Shadid, Abby
24 Vonachen, Erica Vonachen, Claire Vonachen, Michelle Vonachen,

1 Druschel Vonachen, Olivia Vonachen, Jabe Vonachen, Natalie
2 Vonachen, and Jac Vonachen; therefore, be it

3 RESOLVED, BY THE SENATE OF THE NINETY-EIGHTH GENERAL
4 ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, that we mourn the passing of
5 Harold Vonachen Jr., and extend our sincere condolences to his
6 family, friends, and all who knew and loved him; and be it
7 further

8 RESOLVED, That suitable copy of this resolution be
9 presented to the family of Harold Vonachen Jr. as an expression
10 of our deepest sympathy.