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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 Robert P. "Bob" Neal, who passed away on September 3, 2014; and

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WHEREAS, Robert Neal was born on May 18, 1939 in North Chicago; his parents were Leo and Frances (nee Clarke) Neal; he was a life-long resident of Wadsworth; and

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WHEREAS, Robert Neal served in United States Navy active duty from 1957 until 1961 and retired from the Naval Reserves in 1999; he continued his service to his country by serving with the Lake County Council of the Navy League, where he served as President; and

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WHEREAS, Robert Neal started Able Electronics in his basement and operated the business in Waukegan for over 25 years; he was a member of the Lake County Board from 1982 to 1994; he served as Chairman of the Lake County Republican Central Committee for 8 years; he was also appointed director of the Illinois State Tollway Authority by Governors James Thompson and Jim Edgar and served for 10 years and worked for the Illinois Department of Natural Resources and Wetlands Research, Inc.; as president of Wetlands Research, he led the development of the Wetlands demonstration located in Wadsworth

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1 and Gurnee and was honored with the naming of Neal Marsh; and

2 WHEREAS, Robert Neal's life-long commitment to his
3 community started at a young age with the Boy Scouts, becoming
4 the first Eagle Scout in St. Patrick's Troop 75; over the
5 years, he served as President and State Vice-President of the
6 Waukegan Jaycees, founded the Gurnee Jaycees, and was a member
7 of the ZB Moose Club, the Knights of Columbus, Waukegan Masonic
8 Lodge 78, and the Lake County Shrine Club; he was a charter
9 member of the Little Fort Lions Club and a charter member and
10 President of the Wadsworth Lions Club, where he received the
11 Melvin Jones Award in 1996; he served as a Newport Township
12 Volunteer Fireman, Board Member and President of the Newport
13 Township Civic Association, and as Chairman and President of
14 the United Way of Lake County Campaign; he was a founding
15 member of the Coalition for Healthy Communities, President of
16 the Waukegan Exchange Club, and President of the Newport
17 Historical Society; he served as a trustee for the Village of
18 Wadsworth, as Newport Township Supervisor, and as a Republican
19 Precinct Committeeman; he was also a member of St. Patrick's
20 Parish; and

21 WHEREAS, Robert Neal was an avid Chicago White Sox and
22 Chicago Bears fan; he also enjoyed playing golf, especially
23 with his friends in Sun City, Arizona and on the Pickwick Golf
24 League at Willow Glen Golf Course; and

1 WHEREAS, Robert Neal was preceded in death by a daughter,
2 Michelle Patrice "Miki"; his parents; and a brother, Clarke
3 Neal; and

4 WHEREAS, Robert Neal is survived by his loving wife of 53
5 years, Pat (nee Geissler); devoted children, Lori Neal, Cheri
6 Neal, Cathy (Rodney) Karlstrand, Rob Neal, Jr., and United
7 States Navy Lt. Joe Neal; adoring grandchildren, Billy Ditzig,
8 Britney Ditzig, Michelle Swanson, Riley Karlstrand, Melissa
9 Neal, and Rachel Depuydt; siblings, Bill Neal, Betty (Bill)
10 Hoffmeier, Jim (Janet) Neal, Dorothy Desmond (Kevin Scott), and
11 Rick (Deb) Neal; sister-in-law, Martha Neal; and many loving
12 nieces, nephews, and extended family members; therefore, be it

13 RESOLVED, BY THE SENATE OF THE NINETY-EIGHTH GENERAL
14 ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, that we, along with his
15 family and friends, mourn the passing of Robert P. "Bob" Neal;
16 and be it further

17 RESOLVED, That a suitable copy of this resolution be
18 presented to the family of Robert Neal as an expression of our
19 sympathy.