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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 James Edward "Sonny" Brown, who passed away on October 10, 2014; and

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WHEREAS, James Brown was born on October 30, 1938 in Helena, Arkansas; his parents were George and Annie Brown; and

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WHEREAS, James Brown accepted Christ into his life at an early age under the leadership of Reverend E.E. Franklin at New Light Missionary Baptist Church in Helena, Arkansas; and

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WHEREAS, In 1957, James Brown graduated from Eliza Miller High School, where he was an outstanding athlete; he played football and played the trumpet in the school band; and

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WHEREAS, Shortly after graduating from high school, James Brown relocated to Chicago; he subsequently attended Malcolm X College and enrolled in a Spanish class, where he was chosen to travel abroad to Morocco and Spain; he also traveled to Hawaii and the Bahamas; he continued to advance his Spanish-speaking skills by attending South Suburban College in South Holland and never missed an opportunity to broaden his language skills with those who he came into contact with; and

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1 WHEREAS, After a stint at the Wilson Bus Company, James
2 Brown went on to work for the Chicago Transit Authority as a
3 bus driver and the University of Illinois as a Spanish
4 translator and Engineer of the Central Supply Department; in
5 2000, he relocated and was employed by Southern California
6 Transportation System; and

7 WHEREAS, James Brown enjoyed sports, especially football,
8 and enjoyed watching games whenever they were on television; he
9 was a true Chicago Bears fan and traveled to their training
10 camp several times a year; he was also a wonderful cook and
11 loved to cook a variety of special gourmet dishes; and

12 WHEREAS, James Brown was preceded in death by his parents;
13 4 brothers, Jessie (JC/Bubba) Brown, Vernon Brown, George
14 Brown, and Henry Brown; and 3 sisters, Velma Ewing, Evelyn
15 Jones, and George Ella Hooper; and

16 WHEREAS, James Brown is survived by a brother, Eddie Lee
17 (Doris) Brown; 5 children, Pierre (Angie) Brown, Rodney Brown,
18 Parveen (Odell) Dubose, Lakeesha Malone-Norwood (Clarence
19 Norwood), and Dallal (Onika) Brown; 12 grandchildren, Jarveen,
20 Joseph, Pierre, Jr., Jennifer, Keantre, Kenyatta, Kyana,
21 Dalencia, Diavionne, Dallal, Jr., Daliyah, and D'Maya; 5
22 great-grandchildren; his special friends, Gloria Jones and
23 Kateena Butler; and many cousins, nephews, nieces, and friends;

1 therefore, be it

2 RESOLVED, BY THE SENATE OF THE NINETY-EIGHTH GENERAL
3 ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, that we, along with his
4 family and friends, mourn the passing of James Edward Brown;
5 and be it further

6 RESOLVED, That a suitable copy of this resolution be
7 presented to the family of James Brown as an expression of our
8 sympathy.