



SR0098

LRB099 07663 MST 27795 r

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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 H. "Jimmy" Binkley of Peoria, who passed away on January 26, 2015; and

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WHEREAS, James Binkley was born in Chicago on March 1, 1923 to Carol and Mary Binkley; he married Sandra S. Hatfield in Springfield on November 26, 1979; and

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WHEREAS, James Binkley started playing music professionally at the age of 17 with a jazz combo called Jimmy Binkley & The Blue Notes and toured through small Midwestern clubs; he started playing regularly for Collins Corner in downtown Peoria and eventually became a fixture at Jumer's Castle Lodge and other spots, before settling at Sky Harbor; and

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WHEREAS, In 2010, James Binkley was honored with "Happy Jimmy Binkley Day: A Musical Tribute to Peoria's Legendary Jazzman" and he received proclamations from the City of West Peoria and the Peoria County Board; in 2014, he was the first African-American in 125 years to be Grand Marshall in the Peoria Santa Claus Parade; and

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WHEREAS, James Binkley was preceded in death by his parents

1 and his sister, Carliss; and

2 WHEREAS, James Binkley is survived by his wife, Sandra; his  
3 son, Jimmy Binkley, Jr.; his step-daughters, DaVonne "Devo"  
4 (Brett) Pierce, Dianne "Bunny" (fiance Ty Harbourn)  
5 Knollenberg, and Debbie (Joey Marsh) Wennmacher; his step-son,  
6 Darren (Kim) Wennmacher; his many grandchildren; his many  
7 great-grandchildren; and several nieces and nephews;  
8 therefore, be it

9 RESOLVED, BY THE SENATE OF THE NINETY-NINTH GENERAL  
10 ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, that we mourn the passing of  
11 James H. "Jimmy" Binkley, and extend our sincere condolences to  
12 his family, friends, and all who knew and loved him; and be it  
13 further

14 RESOLVED, That a suitable copy of this resolution be  
15 presented to the family of James Binkley as an expression of  
16 our deepest sympathy.