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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 Charles Roger Ezard of Jacksonville, who passed away on April 30, 2015; and

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WHEREAS, Roger Ezard was born in Mattoon on June 22, 1936 to Harry and Esther Cunningham Ezard; he graduated from Jacksonville High School in 1954, where he was on 2 basketball teams that made appearances in the State tournament; he received a scholarship to play basketball at Vanderbilt University in Nashville, Tennessee; he then attended Western Illinois University and Illinois College, where he earned his bachelor's degree and played football, basketball, and baseball; he later earned his master's degree in education from the University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign; he married Sally Brown on July 5, 1963 at the Franklin United Methodist Church; and

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WHEREAS, Roger Ezard taught and coached basketball on the varsity level at Ottawa-Marquette, Wynona, Franklin, and North Greene high schools before coming to Turner Junior High School in 1965 to serve as a teacher and coach; he went on to coach boys' basketball at Turner for 30 years, establishing an 83% winning percentage and making several appearances at the State tournament; he also coached track and field and football and

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1 was later inducted into the Illinois Basketball Coaches Hall of
2 Fame and the Jacksonville High School Hall of Fame; and

3 WHEREAS, Roger Ezard was a longtime member of Central
4 Christian Church and served as deacon for several years; he was
5 a past-President and a member of the Illinois Retired Teachers
6 Association and enjoyed meeting with his former colleagues,
7 coaches, and friends; he ran the Jacksonville Pony-Colt League
8 and coached there for several years; as a young man, he played
9 with the Jacksonville Redlegs and Merchants and was a member of
10 his church softball team; he was a devoted fan of the St. Louis
11 Cardinals, the Jacksonville High School Crimson, the
12 University of Illinois Fighting Illini, and Illinois College
13 Athletics; he had recently become a fixture in the stands
14 cheering on the Lenz Field Warriors; and

15 WHEREAS, Roger Ezard loved line dancing and attending
16 bluegrass and country-western music events with his wife,
17 following his children's and grandchildren's events, and
18 golfing with his friends; he enjoyed creating gifts for his
19 grandson's teammates and spending time with his companion
20 "grand-dog" Sage; and

21 WHEREAS, Roger Ezard is survived by his wife, Sally; his 2
22 sons, Tony Ezard and H. Andrew (Jenissa) Ezard; his 4
23 grandchildren, Haley Ezard, Abby Ezard, Kaylee Ezard, and

1 Andrew Charles "Drew" Ezard; and his cousin, Carol (Jim) Knapp;
2 therefore, be it

3 RESOLVED, BY THE SENATE OF THE NINETY-NINTH GENERAL
4 ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, that we mourn the passing of
5 Charles Roger Ezard, 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 a suitable copy of this resolution be
9 presented to the family of Roger Ezard as an expression of our
10 deepest sympathy.