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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 Sandra Annette "Sandy" Bland, who passed away on July 13, 2015; and

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WHEREAS, Sandy Bland was born in Chicago on February 7, 1987 to Willie and Geneva Bland; her family later moved to Villa Park; she attended Jackson Middle School and graduated from Willowbrook High School in 2005, where she was involved in basketball, volleyball, track, color guard, and cheerleading; she attended Prairie View A&M University on a band scholarship as a skilled trombonist and was a member of The Marching Storm; in the spring of 2007, she joined Sigma Gamma Rho Sorority, Inc., where she served as chapter President; she graduated in 2009 with a bachelor degree in agricultural food sciences; and

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WHEREAS, Sandy Bland grew up in the DuPage AME Church, participating in a number of youth ministries, including the Girl Scouts, Sisters in Praise, the YPD, and Voices of Tomorrow; most recently, she worked with the Women's Day Committee; and

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WHEREAS, In January of 2015, Sandy Bland introduced the hashtag #SandySpeaks to use as a platform to address societal injustices that she felt impacted her community personally; she

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1 had a genuine interest in lending a voice to the next
2 generation; and

3 WHEREAS, Sandy Bland was preceded in death by her maternal
4 grandparents, Sharon Needham and Emmett Reed, Sr.; her paternal
5 grandparents, Verdine and Melvin Bland, Sr.; and her father,
6 Willie Bland; and

7 WHEREAS, Sandy Bland is survived by her mother, Geneva
8 Reed-Veal (Rick); her sisters, Shante Needham (Mickiya,
9 Princess, Tremaine, and Denzel), Sharon Cooper (Jonathan and
10 Natalie), Shavon Bland (Zakira, Laiana, and Egypt), and Sierra
11 Cole (Janiyah); and a host of uncles, aunts, cousins, and
12 friends; therefore, be it

13 RESOLVED, BY THE SENATE OF THE NINETY-NINTH GENERAL
14 ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, that we mourn the passing of
15 Sandra Annette "Sandy" Bland, and extend our sincere
16 condolences to her family, friends, and all who knew and loved
17 her; and be it further

18 RESOLVED, That a suitable copy of this resolution be
19 presented to the family of Sandy Bland as an expression of our
20 deepest sympathy.