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SENATE RESOLUTION

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WHEREAS, Senator Kirk W. Dillard stepped down from his seat representing the 24th District, ending a prolific and successful legislative career in which he served the people of Illinois with distinction and honor; and

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WHEREAS, Sen. Dillard has always felt it was a true privilege to serve the people of Illinois and has done so his entire adult life; before being elected to the Illinois Senate, he began his career as a legislative intern for the Senate Republican Staff; and

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WHEREAS, Sen. Dillard served with distinction as Chief of Staff for Governor Jim Edgar, as a Legislative Director for Governor James Thompson, and as a judge on the Court of Claims; and

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WHEREAS, Sen. Dillard was first elected to the Illinois State Senate in 1995 and began a remarkable and effective 20-year legislative career; and

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WHEREAS, Sen. Dillard served honorably as the Republican Co-Chairman and Spokesman for the Senate Judiciary Committee and as a member of the Senate Transportation, Energy, Executive Appointments, and Veterans Affairs Committees; and

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1 WHEREAS, Sen. Dillard was Chairman of the Local Government
2 Committee and the Republican Spokesman on the Rules Committee,
3 and he served on the Licensed Activities Committee; and

4 WHEREAS, Sen. Dillard chaired the Senate High Technology
5 Task Force, which led to the creation of the Illinois Century
6 Network, linking vast information sources, including schools,
7 libraries, universities, museums, and laboratories, such as
8 the Argonne National Laboratory in Darien; and

9 WHEREAS, Sen. Dillard worked to improve infrastructure in
10 the suburbs; he spearheaded numerous projects through the
11 legislative process and watched them become reality; and

12 WHEREAS, Sen. Dillard worked to assist the Village of
13 Downers Grove on the completion of the Belmont Road underpass;
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15 WHEREAS, Sen. Dillard was instrumental in the rebuilding of
16 the Chicago Avenue/Naperville Road project through Clarendon
17 Hills and Westmont and was a contributing factor in developing
18 the new Oak Street Bridge project in Hinsdale; and

19 WHEREAS, Sen. Dillard worked diligently to clean up
20 contaminated drinking water in unincorporated Lisle,

1 Woodridge, and Downers Grove and to fund flood mitigation
2 projects for Salt Creek; and

3 WHEREAS, Sen. Dillard is most proud of the work he did to
4 help create the Giant Steps Autism School in Lisle and in
5 securing funding for the Woodridge-based Respite House to help
6 medically fragile children; and

7 WHEREAS, Sen. Dillard sponsored the law allowing the
8 construction of the Museum of Contemporary Art, enhancing
9 Chicago's Gold Coast and Streeterville neighborhoods; and

10 WHEREAS, Sen. Dillard has been the chief sponsor of many
11 landmark pieces of legislation, including a law banning sex
12 offenders from practicing medicine in Illinois; and

13 WHEREAS, Sen. Dillard sponsored a bill to create the AMBER
14 Alert Program for missing children; and

15 WHEREAS, Sen. Dillard sponsored the Secretary of State's
16 railroad safety initiative, resulting in a significant drop in
17 fatalities; and

18 WHEREAS, Sen. Dillard sponsored a law to create statewide
19 grand juries for gunrunning and made the discharge of a firearm
20 from a moving motor vehicle a felony; and

1 WHEREAS, Following the September 11 terrorist acts, Sen.
2 Dillard sponsored a law to return the Pledge of Allegiance to
3 Illinois high schools after a 30-year absence; and

4 WHEREAS, Sen. Dillard was the chief sponsor of the Attorney
5 General's Safe To Learn legislation, which insured the safety
6 of children in school buildings; and

7 WHEREAS, Sen. Dillard helped create thousands of jobs in
8 Illinois by shepherding legislation to expand McCormick Place
9 and Navy Pier, and he sponsored the incentives to lure the
10 Boeing Company headquarters to Chicago; and

11 WHEREAS, Sen. Dillard sponsored the senior citizens tax
12 deferral program to help elderly homeowners remain in their
13 homes with dignity, and he sponsored legislation to require
14 parental notice of abortion and parental notice for body
15 piercing on minors; and

16 WHEREAS, Sen. Dillard sponsored the bill creating the
17 ever-popular "Pet Friendly" license plate law; and

18 WHEREAS, Sen. Dillard sponsored many laws to increase
19 transparency and accountability in government, sponsoring,
20 with then-State Senator Barack Obama, the first ethics and

1 campaign finance reforms in 25 years; legislation to address
2 racial profiling by law enforcement personnel, and an overhaul
3 of Illinois's death penalty laws; and

4 WHEREAS, Sen. Dillard was the chief sponsor of the law to
5 create the Illinois Internet Portal to disclose online every
6 salary, contract, tax break, and tax deadbeat; and

7 WHEREAS, Over the years, Sen. Dillard sponsored
8 truth-in-sentencing legislation to make sure violent felons
9 serve their full sentence; he also sponsored a law requiring
10 mandatory DNA testing for all felons, a law abolishing the
11 much-maligned General Assembly legislative scholarship
12 program, and a law reforming McCormick Place work rules; and

13 WHEREAS, Sen. Dillard worked tirelessly rewriting the
14 archaic Criminal Code of 1961 with Senate President John
15 Cullerton; and

16 WHEREAS, Sen. Dillard sponsored laws related to tort reform
17 to ensure access to health care in Illinois, especially for
18 women; and

19 WHEREAS, Sen. Dillard is a respected legislator and is
20 considered to be the consummate statesman by both chambers and
21 both parties; he was voted Outstanding Legislator by both the

1 nation's private bi-partisan and Republican lawmakers
2 associations, and he won the National Federation of Independent
3 Business Guardian of Small Business Award and the Illinois
4 Chamber Champion of Free Enterprise award multiple times; he
5 received the Illinois Press Association's legislative service
6 award, and he received the Legislator of the Year Award from
7 the Illinois State Crime Commission; he was selected for the
8 Legislative Staff Hall of Fame by Illinois Issues magazine, in
9 conjunction with the University of Illinois; he was named a
10 Friend of Agriculture by the Illinois Farm Bureau, and he was
11 listed in the Who's Who in Chicago Business by Crain's Chicago
12 Business magazine; while he was president of the Western
13 Illinois University Alumni Association, the association won
14 the Council for the Advancement and Support of Education (CASE)
15 award as the nation's finest among peer State institutions; and

16 WHEREAS, Sen. Dillard has always believed that taxpayers
17 should be treated like trusted business customers, with a smile
18 and respect; and

19 WHEREAS, Sen. Dillard's colleagues note that he should now
20 have more time to spend with his wife, Stephanie, and
21 daughters, Emma and Ava, and an opportunity to reacclimate
22 himself to the game of golf, as well as watching Chicago's 2
23 baseball teams; and

1 WHEREAS, Sen. Dillard is a graduate of Hinsdale Central
2 High School, where his father taught for more than 40 years,
3 and is a member of that school's Hall of Fame; Sen. Dillard
4 earned, with honors, a Bachelor of Arts in Political Science,
5 Economics, and a Doctorate of Humane Letters from Western
6 Illinois University and a Juris Doctor from the DePaul
7 University College of Law; and

8 WHEREAS, Sen. Dillard looks to continued success as a
9 partner with Locke Lord, one of Chicago's largest law firms,
10 which he has been associated with since 1987; and

11 WHEREAS, Sen. Dillard has served as president of the
12 award-winning Western Illinois University Alumni Association,
13 as a member of the Dean's Council of the DePaul University
14 College of Law, and as a foundation board member of the College
15 of DuPage, raising scholarship funds for deserving students;
16 and

17 WHEREAS, Following his departure from the General
18 Assembly, Sen. Dillard has begun work as Chairman of the
19 Regional Transportation Authority, which oversees the nation's
20 second largest mass transit system with over 2,000,000 riders
21 daily; therefore, be it

22 RESOLVED, BY THE SENATE OF THE NINETY-NINTH GENERAL

1 ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, that we thank Senator Kirk
2 W. Dillard for serving the people of the State of Illinois with
3 distinction and acknowledge that both parties will truly miss
4 his experience and leadership; and be it further

5 RESOLVED, That a suitable copy of this resolution be
6 presented to Sen. Dillard as an expression of our esteem and
7 respect.