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SENATE RESOLUTION

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WHEREAS, State Senator Gary Forby has represented the communities of the State of Illinois and the families of the 59th Senate District since 2003; and

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WHEREAS, Senator Forby began his work in public service on the Franklin County Board; and

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WHEREAS, Senator Forby joined the Illinois General Assembly in 2001, serving first in the Illinois House of Representatives before filling the vacancy created by Senator Larry Woolard's retirement in 2003; and

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WHEREAS, Senator Forby is a lifelong resident of Southern Illinois; he was born in Anna and moved to Benton at an early age, where he still resides; and

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WHEREAS, Senator Forby has long been an influential and positive presence in Southern Illinois, as a small business owner providing services to local residents and operating a pro-union, fair-wage excavating company; and

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WHEREAS, Senator Forby brought integrity to his public service by ensuring his votes in the Legislature were cast with the people and the welfare of Southern Illinois in mind; and

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1 WHEREAS, Senator Forby has gained the respect of other
2 elected officials in his district, oftentimes working closely
3 with mayors and city administrators to bring State dollars back
4 to Southern Illinois to help with projects; and

5 WHEREAS, Senator Forby has been a leader in bringing key
6 projects home to his district such as the funding to construct
7 the I-57 on-ramp in Marion and expanding the Ferrell Hospital
8 in Eldorado and the Herrin Hospital; he helped communities
9 throughout the region receive emergency grant funding to keep
10 people safe from hazardous conditions, and multiple school
11 construction grants that brought new schools to Carterville and
12 Marion; and

13 WHEREAS, As a union member himself for over 40 years, and
14 Chair of the Senate Labor Committee, Senator Forby has been the
15 voice of middle class, working families in an uphill battle to
16 ensure labor continues to have a strong presence here in
17 Illinois and that people continue to receive fair, livable
18 wages; and

19 WHEREAS, Senator Forby has been strong in his fight for job
20 creation and the coal industry throughout not only Southern
21 Illinois, but Illinois as a whole; and

1 WHEREAS, Senator Forby helped pass a measure to create the
2 Coal Mining and Electric Generation Act, which brought half a
3 million dollars in funding to help finance the expansion of
4 coal burning power plants in Illinois; and

5 WHEREAS, Senator Forby has continually worked on pro-coal
6 legislation during his tenure in office, and has been one of
7 the loudest voices for the coal industry in Springfield by
8 working to pass pro-coal measures every year since he has been
9 in office; and

10 WHEREAS, Senator Forby served as the chief sponsor in the
11 Senate to lead the effort in bringing concealed carry to
12 Illinois; he stood strong in his efforts to override Governor
13 Quinn's amendatory veto to see the measure move forward; and

14 WHEREAS, Senator Forby has been genuine to his district,
15 fighting to ensure the Southern Illinois region gets its fair
16 share and is not overlooked; and

17 WHEREAS, When Southern Illinois primary schools were
18 facing uncertainty, Senator Forby worked in a bipartisan
19 fashion to help pass a K-12 budget that allowed the schools in
20 his district to receive adequate funding; and

21 WHEREAS, Senator Forby knows the importance of education in

1 his district and has been steadfast in his support for Southern
2 Illinois University by ensuring it continues to receive State
3 funding to help it continue to attract students throughout the
4 country and provide an excellent education for future job
5 seekers; and

6 WHEREAS, Senator Forby is the loving father of daughters,
7 Lisa Black, and Mackenzie Fleetwood, sons, Justin Forby, and
8 Jeremy Fleetwood, and grandfather to his granddaughter, Hannah
9 Forby; and

10 WHEREAS, Senator Forby will return to Benton, where he
11 remains active in many local organizations, including the
12 Shriners and Elks Club; therefore, be it

13 RESOLVED, BY THE SENATE OF THE NINETY-NINTH GENERAL
14 ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, that we thank Gary Forby for
15 his dedicated service to the people of Illinois and honor him
16 with this resolution; and be it further

17 RESOLVED, That a suitable copy of this resolution be
18 presented to Gary Forby with our best wishes for his future
19 endeavors.