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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 Howard D. Eskridge of Tuscola, who passed away on December 9, 2016; and

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WHEREAS, Howard Eskridge was born in Decatur to Homer and Grace (Howell) Eskridge on May 15, 1945; he received his Bachelor of Science in Business from Millikin University and his master's degree in public administration from Governors State University; he married Kathryn Meyer in 1979; he married Judy (Blain) Henderson in Arcola on June 29, 1986; and

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WHEREAS, Howard Eskridge lived his boyhood dream of wanting to be a firefighter by spending 30 years as a firefighter instructor at the University of Illinois Fire Service Institute; his work, along with others, lead to many programs, including basic, standard and advanced level firefighter certification; as a State training instructor, his influence and expertise was often called on to assist fire departments with incidents or designing other training programs; at the age of 21, he was the youngest paid fire chief in the State of Illinois for Hammond; and

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WHEREAS, Following his retirement from the University of Illinois Fire Service Institute, Howard Eskridge worked

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1 part-time for Ruhl Forensic and Depke Welding; and

2 WHEREAS, Howard Eskridge was in the United States Navy
3 Construction Battalions (SEABEES) from 1967 to 1969; he proudly
4 wore his Vietnam Navy Veterans hat and always enjoyed
5 interacting with other veterans; his patriotism was an
6 important part of his life and he helped lay to rest many
7 service members; and

8 WHEREAS, Howard Eskridge had many hobbies and talents; he
9 taught himself to weld and keep farm machinery running; his
10 favorite pastime was communicating with people all over the
11 world as an amateur radio operator (K9GYI) from his Chicken
12 Bristle Radio Shack; other talents included public speaking and
13 writing poetry; his greatest joy was living in the country,
14 where he could mow, trim, and work in his shop; and

15 WHEREAS, Howard Eskridge was a member of the Arcola United
16 Methodist Church, where he once served as lay leader and
17 narrated choir cantatas for many years; he was also a member of
18 the American Radio Relay League and Arcola VFW Post #7680; and

19 WHEREAS, Howard Eskridge is survived by his wife, Judy; his
20 daughters, Kendra Chriss, and Jodi Samsa; his granddaughters,
21 Elise Chriss, and Ava Samsa; his sister, Judy Day; and several
22 nieces and nephews; therefore, be it

1 RESOLVED, BY THE SENATE OF THE NINETY-NINTH GENERAL
2 ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, that we mourn the passing of
3 Howard D. Eskridge, and extend our sincere condolences to his
4 family, friends, and all who knew and loved him; and be it
5 further

6 RESOLVED, That a suitable copy of this resolution be
7 presented to the family of Howard Eskridge as an expression of
8 our deepest sympathy.