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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 Walter Gerald Nelson of Bloomington, who passed away on January 6, 2017; and

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WHEREAS, Walter Nelson was born in Peoria to Walter and Hazel Nelson on January 2, 1930; he graduated from St. Bernard Grade School and Spalding High School in Peoria, where he participated in football, baseball, and basketball; he completed his pre-law education at St. Benedict's College (now Benedictine College) in Atchison, Kansas and Bradley University in Peoria, where he was a cheerleader during his senior year; he received his Juris Doctorate from Creighton University in Omaha, Nebraska; during the Korean War, he was commissioned as a First Lieutenant Judge Advocate General (JAG) Officer at Fort Ord, California; he married Mary Ann Olberding on January 28, 1952; he married Mary Jo Sunderland in Peoria on April 6, 1991; and

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WHEREAS, After his service, Walter Nelson returned to Peoria to raise a family and started a civilian practice; he moved from the private practice of law to insurance and spent over 39 years working for State Farm Insurance in Bloomington, retiring in 1995 as Vice-President and counsel; and

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1 WHEREAS, Walter Nelson was included in the 49th edition of
2 Who's Who in America; he served as President of the Association
3 of Life Insurance Counsel and as Chairman of the legal section
4 of the American Council of Life Insurance; he was founder and
5 President of the National Organization of Life and the Health
6 Insurance Guaranty Association; and

7 WHEREAS, Walter Nelson served on the Community Board of
8 Directors for St. Joseph Medical Center; he was a member of St.
9 Patrick Church of Merna, the Exchange Club, the Knights of
10 Columbus, and the Bloomington Country Club; and

11 WHEREAS, Walter Nelson captained Nelson's Nine Nasty
12 Nosepickers to a softball league championship; he enjoyed
13 spending time with his friends, golfing, reading, playing
14 piano, and seeing the Chicago Cubs win the World Series; and

15 WHEREAS, Walter Nelson was preceded in death by his first
16 wife, Mary Ann; his parents; his daughter-in-law, Robbin
17 Nelson; and his great-granddaughter, Emily Nelson; and

18 WHEREAS, Walter Nelson is survived by his children, Ann
19 (Mike) Larkin, Mike (Pat) Nelson, Sue (Jay) Boor, Pat (Lori)
20 Nelson, Tom (Tracey) Nelson, Tim (Lorraine) Nelson, and Molly
21 (Dave) Edwards; 19 grandchildren; 13 great-grandchildren; Mary
22 Jo's children, Steve (Mary) Sunderland, Kevin (Tamie)

1 Sunderland, Tom (Judy) Sunderland, Colleen (Chuck) Hubert,
2 Maureen (Bob) Grubbs, and Teresa (George) Girardi; her 19
3 grandchildren; and her five great-grandchildren; therefore, be
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5 RESOLVED, BY THE SENATE OF THE ONE HUNDREDTH GENERAL
6 ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, that we mourn the passing of
7 Walter Gerald Nelson, and extend our sincere condolences to his
8 family, friends, and all who knew and loved him; and be it
9 further

10 RESOLVED, That a suitable copy of this resolution be
11 presented to the family of Walter Nelson as an expression of
12 our deepest sympathy.