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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 cross country coach Joe Newton, who passed away on December 9, 2017; and

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WHEREAS, Joe Newton was born in Chicago to Joseph Robinson Newton Jr. and Blanche Hazzard on April 13, 1929; he graduated from Parker High School on Chicago's South Side in 1947; he attended Northwestern University on a track scholarship and earned his bachelor's degree; he stayed at Northwestern for a fifth year to complete his master's degree; he was drafted into the United States Army in 1952 and served until 1954; and

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WHEREAS, Joe Newton began his career as a physical education teacher at York High School in 1956; he assisted with the track team before being named head cross country and track coach in 1960; he won his first state cross country title in 1962; and

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WHEREAS, Joe Newton created a running culture at York and in the Elmhurst community; this culture was known as "The Long Green Line," which was also the title of a 2008 documentary film based on the team; he was the first high school coach to be named to an Olympic coaching staff, and he was in charge of the marathon runners at the 1988 Olympics in Seoul, Korea; and

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1           WHEREAS, Joe Newton moved to Arizona with his wife, Joan,  
2           in the summer of 2000; he continued to return to Illinois each  
3           August to begin a new cross-country season; he wrote four books  
4           on running and was named Coach of the Year 20 times by the  
5           Illinois Coaches Association; and

6           WHEREAS, Joe Newton retired in 2016 after leading York to  
7           28 state cross-country titles, 12 runner-up trophies, and four  
8           awards for third place; he earned 44 podium finishes in 57  
9           seasons, along with the state title for track in 2000; he  
10          attributed his success to a strong and caring coach-athlete  
11          relationship; he created enduring and endearing nicknames for  
12          each of his students and athletes; he rejoiced in the successes  
13          of his runners and shook each team member's hand after every  
14          practice; he believed the most important aspect of coaching was  
15          his relationship with his athletes; and

16          WHEREAS, At the time of his death, Joe Newton was survived  
17          by his wife, Joan Christine Newton, who has since passed away;  
18          his daughter, Cindy L. Carbaugh (Richard); his sons, Thomas J.  
19          Newton and John M. Newton; and his grandchildren, Caitlin L.  
20          Pfaff, Kyle D. Pfaff (Allison), Julia R. Newton, and Lauren  
21          Newton; therefore, be it

22          RESOLVED, BY THE SENATE OF THE ONE HUNDREDTH GENERAL

1 ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, that we mourn the passing of  
2 Joe Newton and extend our sincere condolences to his family,  
3 friends, and all who knew and loved him; and be it further

4       RESOLVED, That a suitable copy of this resolution be  
5 presented to the family of Joe Newton as an expression of our  
6 deepest sympathy.