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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 Seymour L. Bryson of Carbondale, who passed away on May 5, 2019; and

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WHEREAS, Seymour Bryson was born in Quincy on September 8, 1937; he earned a bachelor's degree in social work in 1959, a master's degree in rehabilitation counseling in 1961, and a doctorate in education in 1972, all from Southern Illinois University Carbondale (SIUC); he attended SIUC on a basketball scholarship and enjoyed a record-setting playing career; he still holds the school's rebounding record; and

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WHEREAS, Seymour Bryson retired from SIU as the associate chancellor for diversity in 2008, after four decades of dedicated service to his alma mater; and

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WHEREAS, Seymour Bryson was a leader in SIU's efforts towards diversity; he helped bring approximately \$50 million in external grants to SIU; he was sought as a consultant and has numerous published works to his credit; he was very active in community service, including serving as president of the Carbondale chapter of the NAACP, member and chair of the Diversifying Faculty Initiative, president of the Jackson County 708 Mental Health Board, and president and member of the

1 board of directors of the Carbondale United Way; and

2 WHEREAS, Seymour Bryson received numerous awards and  
3 honors; he received the Senator Emil Jones Mentoring Award, the  
4 Introspect Access Award, the Distinguished Service Award from  
5 the Illinois Committee on Black Concerns in Higher Education,  
6 the School of Social Work Alumni Achievement Award, the Black  
7 Affairs Council Roby Given Award, the Iota Phi Theta Community  
8 Service Award, and the Lindell W. Sturgis Memorial Award; he  
9 was inducted into the Illinois Basketball Coaches Association  
10 Hall of Fame in 1992; he is also an inductee of the Quincy High  
11 School and SIU Halls of Fame; he was honored for his  
12 humanitarian impact by receiving the 2019 SIU Distinguished  
13 Alumni Award; he was also a member of Kappa Alpha Psi  
14 Fraternity, Inc.; and

15 WHEREAS, Seymour Bryson's family meant more to him than any  
16 professional accomplishment; he was known as "Pops" and made  
17 sure that his grandchildren had fond memories of visits to  
18 Turley and Castle Parks, Dairy Queen on the strip, countless  
19 snow cones in the summertime, and movies at AMC; he influenced  
20 their love of reading and learning through regular trips to  
21 Barnes & Noble; his friends and family often referred to him as  
22 the amateur Gordon Parks because of his love of photography,  
23 and he was seldom without his camera, capturing all of the  
24 precious moments of his children's and grandchildren's lives;

1 and

2 WHEREAS, Seymour Bryson was preceded in death by his  
3 mother, Claudine Jackson; his grandmother, Hettie Nixon; his  
4 brother, Edgar Bryson; and his sister, Hettie Knaff; and

5 WHEREAS, Seymour Bryson is survived by his wife of 59  
6 years, Marjorie Bryson; his son, Todd Bryson; his daughters,  
7 Robin Bryson and Keri (Stephen) Burns; his grandchildren,  
8 Jordan Bryson, Keric Young, Kendall Young, Adrian Bryson,  
9 Francesca Sanchez, Fernando Sanchez, and Isaiah Burns; his  
10 sisters, Susie Barnes, Janice Bryson, and Carol (Paul) Henry;  
11 his brother, Raymond (Cynthia) Bryson; and numerous nieces,  
12 nephews, and dear friends; therefore, be it

13 RESOLVED, BY THE SENATE OF THE ONE HUNDRED FIRST GENERAL  
14 ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, that we mourn the passing of  
15 Seymour L. Bryson and extend our sincere condolences to his  
16 family, friends, and all who knew and loved him; and be it  
17 further

18 RESOLVED, That a suitable copy of this resolution be  
19 presented to the family of Seymour Bryson as an expression of  
20 our deepest sympathy.