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SENATE RESOLUTION

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WHEREAS, It is with regret that the members of the Illinois Senate learned of the recent death of President/Executive Secretary/Treasurer of the 47,000 member Chicago and Regional Council of Carpenters, Earl J. Oliver, on July 9, 2004; and

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WHEREAS, Earl J. Oliver grew up in Indiana in a labor family; he first joined the Carpenters Union in 1963 as a millwright; he was elected president of his local 1693 and elected as a delegate to the Chicago District in 1975, was elected Chair of the Midwestern Association of Millwrights in 1985, was elected President/Executive Secretary/Treasurer of the Chicago and Northeast Illinois District Council of Carpenters in 1992 and then was elected 1st Vice President of the Chicago and Cook County Building and Construction Trade Council in 1994; and

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WHEREAS, Mr. Oliver was known for his vision and innovation; under his leadership, the District Council expanded its membership exponentially, organizing the unorganized, and expanding union building throughout the region; and

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WHEREAS, Under Earl Oliver's leadership, apprenticeship training and journeymen skill upgrading became a mainstay of the Union; five years ago he established the first Carpenters' Pre-apprentice and apprenticeship training school in Chicago and in June, Mayor Daley joined him to break ground for the expansion of the school; a new 38,000 square foot building will double the size of the existing facility and allow for the training of 500 pre-apprentices each year; and

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WHEREAS, An astute business leader as well, Earl Oliver joined forces with developer John Buck and used the old three story union headquarters at 12 East Erie in Chicago for a joint

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1 venture in which they razed the former headquarters and created  
2 a 200 unit luxury rental apartment building on the site, which  
3 also houses the Union Headquarters, restaurants, and shops; and

4 WHEREAS, Recently, he had announced the completion of a  
5 three-year agreement with MARBA, the association of commercial  
6 builders in Northern Illinois, the 5th such agreement he had  
7 forged in the last 14 years; and

8 WHEREAS, The passing of Earl J. Oliver has been deeply felt  
9 by many, especially his wife 40 years, Cheryl; his children,  
10 Earl E. Oliver, William Oliver, and Joanne Crosby; his  
11 grandchildren, Christine, Scottie, and Jennifer Crosby; and  
12 his siblings, Shirley Hine and Dianne Smith; therefore, be it

13 RESOLVED, BY THE SENATE OF THE NINETY-THIRD GENERAL  
14 ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, that we mourn the passing of  
15 Earl J. Oliver, and we extend our deepest sympathy 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 Earl J. Oliver as an expression of  
20 our sincerest condolences during their time of bereavement.