



1

SENATE RESOLUTION

2 WHEREAS, Perry and Franklin County residents mourn the
3 death of Jack Licata, a man whose life was woven into the
4 fabric of both counties; and

5 WHEREAS, Jack Licata, a lifelong Du Quoin resident,
6 longtime member of the school board, sports booster, and
7 Franklin County engineer since 1972, died February 17, 2005;
8 and

9 WHEREAS, He was born January 10, 1929, in Du Quoin to
10 Antonio Licata and Mary Pizzolatto; he married Betty Keeler on
11 October 18, 1952, in Du Quoin; and

12 WHEREAS, He attended college on the GI Bill and received a
13 degree in civil engineering; he established a scholarship for
14 students interested in engineering or math-related fields; he
15 was a member of Sacred Heart Catholic Church; he was also a
16 member of American Legion Post 647, Knights of Columbus Council
17 1298, and several civil engineering organizations; he was a
18 former school board member (School District Board of Education
19 from 1972-1993) and he was a veteran of the United States Army,
20 having served in World War II; and

21 WHEREAS, It was said of Jack that if someone had a problem,
22 they went to Jack for advice or help; it did not matter to him
23 who someone was or what they had or who he had to go up against;
24 if he thought it was right, he did it; he would speak his mind
25 and everybody respected him for that; he was a good voice for
26 the County residents and will be totally impossible to replace;
27 and

28 WHEREAS, He will be remembered as a straight shooter; his
29 word was gold; he was relentless when it came to solving
30 problems and building bridges; he built over 200 bridges in

1 Franklin County and assisted other counties, cities, and
2 villages; a million dollar bridge project is awarded each year
3 to one county; he worked for eight years to bring the project
4 to Franklin County, and the bridge project is near completion
5 at West Frankfort City Lake; and

6 WHEREAS, He always tried to get the most out of the
7 taxpayers' money; he did so many things for Franklin County
8 that went beyond his job; and he saved the County untold
9 dollars through strategic planning and the ability to secure
10 state and federal funds; and

11 WHEREAS, He was an excellent school board member and
12 supportive of Du Quoin schools; he was instrumental in the
13 planning and construction of the Du Quoin Indians football
14 stadium and was a huge backer of high school sports; he
15 remained interested in the school even after he left the school
16 board and was a fixture at Du Quoin ball games; he did a lot of
17 things for people that no one knew about and he helped the
18 school on several different projects; he was very proud of the
19 district and he always wore his Du Quoin hat at the ball games;
20 and

21 WHEREAS, He and his wife, Betty, had three children who all
22 went on to enjoy successful careers; and

23 WHEREAS, He was preceded in death by his parents; and

24 WHEREAS, The passing of Jack Licata is felt by all who knew
25 and loved him, especially his wife, Betty; his daughters and
26 one son-in-law, Faye Licata and Carolyn and Matt Arnold; his
27 son and daughter-in-law, Anthony and Susan Licata; his sister,
28 Mary Ingrassia; and his grandchildren; therefore, be it

29 RESOLVED, BY THE SENATE OF THE NINETY-FOURTH GENERAL
30 ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, that we mourn the passing of

1 Jack Licata and extend our heartfelt condolences to his family,
2 friends, and community; and be it further

3 RESOLVED, That a suitable copy of this resolution be
4 presented to his family as an expression of our deepest
5 sympathy.