



SR0198

LRB096 12335 GRL 25179 r

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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 Russell Dunham of Jerseyville, who passed away on April 6, 2009; and

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WHEREAS, Russell Dunham was born on February 23, 1920 in East Carondelet; he was the son of Ola and Dolly (Atwood) Dunham; he married the former Wilda W. Long-Bazzell on Sept. 29, 1959 in Alton; and

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WHEREAS, Russell Dunham served in the United States Army with Company I, 30th Infantry, 3rd Division under General George Patton; and

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WHEREAS, Russell Dunham was a recipient of the Medal of Honor, America's top military award for heroism; he earned the Medal of Honor for his actions on January 8, 1945, near Kayserberg, France, when he single-handedly knocked out three enemy machine guns with his platoon behind him; despite being shot, he spearheaded a successful diversionary attack using only his carbine and hand grenades; his courageous actions saved the lives of more than 150 American soldiers; and

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WHEREAS, Russell Dunham retired from the Veterans Administration in 1975 after 35 years of service; and

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1           WHEREAS, Russell Dunham was a member of the Alton VFW Post  
2           1308 and AMVETS; he was also a former member of the American  
3           Legion; and

4           WHEREAS, Russell Dunham was preceded in death by his wife;  
5           his parents; his granddaughters, Katie Bazzell and Ryalynn  
6           Bell; his brothers, Marvin, Pete, Irvin, Leonard, and Ralph;  
7           and his sisters, Freida and Gladys; and

8           WHEREAS, Russell Dunham is survived by his daughter, Mary  
9           Lee Neal and her husband, Kerry; his step-daughter, Annette  
10          Wilson and her husband, Glenn; his step-son, David Bazzell; his  
11          grandchildren, Michelle (Greg) Crull, Julia (Doug) Edgar, and  
12          Kimberly (Adam) Miller; his great-grandchildren; his brothers,  
13          Jim Dunham, Floyd Dunham, and Junior; and his sisters,  
14          Josephine, Florence, and Charlotte; therefore, be it

15          RESOLVED, BY THE SENATE OF THE NINETY-SIXTH GENERAL  
16          ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, that we mourn, along with  
17          his family and friends, the passing of Russell Dunham; and be  
18          it further

19          RESOLVED, That a suitable copy of this resolution be  
20          presented to the family of Russell Dunham as an expression of  
21          our sympathy.