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LRB097 14595 KXB 59454 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 John Joseph "Johnny" Gerl of Joliet, who passed away on October 30, 2011; and

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WHEREAS, He was born in Joliet on February 7, 1920; he attended St. Joseph's Grade School, and was a graduate of Joliet Township High School class of 1938; he was a proud member of St. Joseph Catholic Church and was a lifetime member of the Rival's Park Athletic Association, and the Will County Old-Timers Baseball Association; and

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WHEREAS, He was a United States Army Veteran serving with the 113th Engineers C Company, during World War II; he received the Bronze Star for his bravery and heroism while engaged in action in the Philippine Islands and 3 additional Bronze Battle Stars, World War II Victory Medal, Asiatic-Pacific Theater Ribbon, Philippine Liberation Ribbon, 3 Overseas Service Bars, and one Service Stripe; and

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WHEREAS, He was a life member of V.F.W. Stone City Post #2199; he was also a fast pitch softball standout; he played for various local teams, including the Joliet Rivals Baseball Club and the esteemed Aurora Sealmasters; in 1977, he was inducted into the Fast Pitch Softball Hall of Fame; during the

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1 1950's the Chicago White Sox offered him a minor league
2 baseball contract; and he was the owner and operator of Johnny
3 and Lou's Tavern for over 40 years; and

4 WHEREAS, He was preceded in death by his first wife, Bertha
5 (nee Perush) Gerl; his parents, John and Mary Gerl; his
6 brother, Edward Gerl; his sisters, Marie Wojeski, Bern Kickles,
7 and Dorothy Savich; and his grandsons, Frank John Rury and
8 Andrew Scott Taras; and

9 WHEREAS, John Gerl is survived by his wife, Alene C. (nee
10 Pearcy) Gerl; his sons, Andrew (Tania) Taras and John (Ronae)
11 Gerl; his daughters, Karen DeBenedetti, Helen (Larry)
12 Setmeyer, and Rachelle (Larry) Prodehl; his grandchildren,
13 Mario, Dawne, Darin, and Dedra DeBenedetti, Scott and Nicholas
14 Taras, Wally, Andy, and Adam Setmeyer, Jayme Rury, Racheal
15 Todd, and Rebecca Burlingame, and Johnny and Haley Gerl; his
16 great-grandchildren; his sisters, Helen Kachel and Leone Will;
17 his devoted sister-in-law, Irene Capista; and numerous nieces,
18 nephews, and cousins; therefore, be it

19 RESOLVED, BY THE SENATE OF THE NINETY-SEVENTH GENERAL
20 ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, that we mourn, along with
21 his family and friends, the passing of John Gerl; and be it
22 further

1 RESOLVED, That a suitable copy of this resolution be
2 presented to the family of John Gerl as a symbol of our sincere
3 sympathy.