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SENATE RESOLUTION

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WHEREAS, The members of the Illinois Senate wish to honor the life of former Illinois State Senator Wendell E. Jones, formerly of Palatine, who passed away on October 25, 2011; and

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WHEREAS, Senator Wendell Jones was an exemplary lawmaker who was held in high regard for his 9 years of public service in the Illinois Senate; and

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WHEREAS, He was born on November 4, 1937 in Battle Creek, Michigan; he attended Ball State University, where he received his B.S. in Speech and Hearing Therapy and an M.S. in Special Education; and

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WHEREAS, He started his 24-year educational career as a speech therapist for District 15 in Palatine and later became the director of Special Education; in addition, he later served as an Assistant Superintendent in Cook County; he later became the Director of the DuPage/West Cook Regional Special Education Association; and

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WHEREAS, He was also successful in business, serving as a salesman for Clayton Metals, Co. and forming Wenco, a promotional products company; and

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1 WHEREAS, He served as the Palatine Village President and as
2 a Trustee, for one term in each office; he was a delegate to
3 the 1980 Republican National Convention; and he served as a
4 Republican precinct captain for 40 years; and

5 WHEREAS, Senator Jones sponsored laws to protect children
6 from sex offenders, to reopen the "world-class" Arlington
7 International Race Course, and to support charter school
8 reform; he helped to pass the Illinois Safe Neighborhoods Act;
9 and

10 WHEREAS, He was a strong advocate for funding special
11 education and mental health programs; and

12 WHEREAS, Senator Jones served with distinction on the
13 Northwest Suburban Alliance on Domestic Violence and fought for
14 domestic violence shelters like the Women In Need Growing
15 Stronger (WINGS) in his district; and

16 WHEREAS, Senator Jones supported legislation to protect
17 the environment and helped to develop the Wilke Marsh with the
18 Palatine Park District; and

19 WHEREAS, Senator Jones was a member of the Senate
20 Committees on Appropriations, Local Government, Revenue, and
21 Property Tax Reform; and

1 WHEREAS, Senator Jones served as the Vice Chairman for the
2 Senate Committee on Financial Institutions and as the Minority
3 Spokesman for the Housing and Community Affairs Committee; and

4 WHEREAS, Senator Jones led a distinguished group of
5 lawmakers with the informal Capitol Committee on Currency
6 Exchanges; and

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8 WHEREAS, He always kept Illinois Senate committees in
9 stitches with his humor; and

10 WHEREAS, Senator Jones was never at a loss for words or a
11 good one-liner when it came to debating the Illinois budget; he
12 admired the man who once said, "The 9 most terrifying words in
13 the English language are: "I'm from the government, and I'm
14 here to help"; and

15 WHEREAS, Senator Jones and his wife reluctantly found the
16 climate of Florida to be more hospitable and chose to retire in
17 the warmth of the Sunshine State; and

18 WHEREAS, He was preceded in death by his sister-in-law, Dr.
19 Doris Allen; and

20 WHEREAS, Senator Wendell Jones is survived by his loving

1 wife of 51 years, Jane Ellen (Condon); his beloved children,
2 Timothy W. Jones, Julie A. (Thomas) Healy, and Janell L.
3 Chandler; he took great pride in spoiling his 4 cherished
4 grandchildren, Ryan, Micaela, McKayla, and Taylor; he is also
5 survived by his brothers-in-law, James (Patricia) Condon and
6 Warren (Carol) Condon; and 5 nieces; and

7 WHEREAS, The passing of Senator Wendell Jones will be
8 deeply felt by his fellow legislators, admirers, and
9 constituents, who will fondly remember him for his
10 intelligence, compassion, wit, and graciousness; therefore, be
11 it

12 RESOLVED, BY THE SENATE OF THE NINETY-SEVENTH GENERAL
13 ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, that we mourn, along with
14 his family, friends, former constituents, and admirers, the
15 passing of former State Senator Wendell Jones; and be it
16 further

17 RESOLVED, That a suitable copy of this resolution be
18 presented to the family of former State Senator Wendell Jones
19 as an expression of our respect and as a symbol of our sincere
20 sympathy.