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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 United States Army Sergeant Merle Allen Dentino, who was killed in action in Vietnam on June 30, 1970; and

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WHEREAS, Sgt. Merle Dentino was born on October 15, 1948, in Peoria; he was a graduate of Spalding Catholic High School and attended the University of Illinois in Champaign before joining the United States Army in late 1969; and

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WHEREAS, Sgt. Merle Dentino was killed in action on June 30, 1970 in Vietnam, following an accidental friendly fire incident; that same year, he was promoted posthumously to the rank of sergeant; he was also awarded the Air Medal, the Army Commendation Medal, the National Defense Service Medal, the Vietnam Service Medal, the Vietnam Campaign Metal, the Combat Infantryman Badge, and the Expert Badge with grenade, rifle, and automatic rifle bars prior to his death and was awarded the Bronze Star with First Oak Leaf Cluster for heroism and the Good Conduct Medal posthumously in 1970; and

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WHEREAS, After the Army Review Boards Agency received United States Representative Aaron Schock's request in 2011 for Sgt. Merle Dentino to receive the Purple Heart, his record was

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1 again reviewed; the decision was made to award him the medal on
2 April 3, 2012, along with the Army Commendation Medal with V
3 Device, the Valorous Unit Award, the Vietnam Service Medal with
4 2 Bronze Service Stars, the Republic of Vietnam Gallantry Cross
5 with Palm Unit Citation, and the Republic of Vietnam Civil
6 Actions Honor Medal First Class Unit Citation; he was
7 officially awarded the Purple Heart and his other medals on
8 July 6, 2012; and

9 WHEREAS, Sgt. Merle Dentino was the son of the late James
10 and the late Ella (Mucciante) Dentino; the brother of Richard
11 Dentino, the late Dr. Ronald Dentino, and Teresa Dentino; the
12 brother-in-law of Rosemarie Dentino; the uncle of Maria
13 Dentino; the uncle of Kathy Dentino; he also had 3 nieces,
14 Michelle Dentino May, Diana, and Lisa, and 2 nephews, Scott
15 Dentino and Fred Dentino; therefore, be it

16 RESOLVED, BY THE SENATE OF THE NINETY-SEVENTH GENERAL
17 ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, that we mourn the passing of
18 United States Army Sergeant Merle Allen Dentino, honor him for
19 his great bravery and willingness to serve his country, and
20 express our heartfelt appreciation for the sacrifices made by
21 Sgt. Dentino and all other service members to keep our nation
22 safe; and be it further

23 RESOLVED, That a suitable copy of this resolution be

1 presented to the family of Sgt. Merle Dentino as an expression
2 of our sympathy.