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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 Donald D. Peasley, who passed away on May 3, 2013; and

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WHEREAS, Donald Peasley was born on December 5, 1922, on the family farm near Stronghurst; his parents were John and LaVerna Dixson Peasley; he married Frances Keane on February 14, 1946; and

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WHEREAS, Donald Peasley graduated from Terre Haute High School in 1940; he attended the University of Illinois from 1940 to 1943 and began his career as a journalist on the editorial staff of The Daily Illini; and

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WHEREAS, Donald Peasley enlisted in the U.S. Navy Reserves and began active duty July 1, 1943; he served in the Pacific Theater aboard the USS Blue Ridge, an amphibious force command ship, and the USS Lawrence C. Taylor, a destroyer escort; and

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WHEREAS, After his marriage, Donald Peasley and his wife returned to the University of Illinois, where he continued his career as a journalist at The Daily Illini and graduated in June of 1947; the couple moved to Woodstock in October of 1947, where he worked as managing editor of the Woodstock Journal,

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1 Hebron Times, and Huntley Review; his journalism career quickly
2 expanded to include success as a photojournalist, editor,
3 columnist, and historian; and

4 WHEREAS, Donald Peasley was a founding member of the
5 Woodstock Little League in 1954; he had served on its board
6 ever since, including 45 years as secretary; in 1962, he
7 established Play Ball!, an annual yearbook featuring league
8 history, highlights, team photos, and individual recognition;
9 and

10 WHEREAS, In 1955, Donald Peasley established Woodstock VFW
11 News, a monthly publication to keep members informed of issues
12 related to veterans; the publication earned 15 national VFW
13 "Best Publication" awards; and

14 WHEREAS, Donald Peasley founded a public relations firm in
15 1961; he worked in communications at the Illinois Farm Bureau
16 from 1950 until the organization moved from Chicago to
17 Bloomington in 1961; and

18 WHEREAS, Donald Peasley had a close relationship with
19 agriculture; through stories and photos, he chronicled major
20 changes affecting the agricultural community in McHenry
21 County; he helped edit and produce the monthly Farm Bureau
22 publication from 1947 until its closure in 2002; he was

1 involved in a host of community events, primarily as a
2 volunteer, including Woodstock's success in becoming an
3 All-America City in National Municipal League competition in
4 1963-1964; and

5 WHEREAS, Donald Peasley was instrumental in promoting the
6 McHenry County Fair and photographed every Fair Queen since
7 1946; last year, the Fair Board recognized his contributions by
8 designating the first day of the Fair as "Don Peasley Day" and
9 placed a nameplate on a bench; and

10 WHEREAS, Donald Peasley was presented the Studs Terkel
11 Humanities Service Award by the Illinois Humanities Council
12 following nomination for the recognition by Woodstock City
13 Council in 2007; he was chosen to be Woodstock Citizen of the
14 Year by the Woodstock Lions Club in 2006 and honored by the
15 Illinois 4-H Foundation with induction into the 4-H Foundation
16 Hall of Fame; his journalistic endeavors, including 60 years of
17 covering high school activities, were recognized with his
18 induction into the Woodstock High School Athletic Hall of Fame
19 in 2006; the McHenry County Board similarly recognized 60 years
20 of photographic and journalistic achievements with a
21 proclamation in February of 2006; and

22 WHEREAS, Donald Peasley is survived by his children, Mary
23 (Hobert Holloway) Peasley, Mark (Laura) Peasley (Molly and

1 Shane Brown), Charles (Debbie) Peasley, and Sarah Peasley; his
2 grandchildren, Peter (Cristina) Beverwyk, Christopher (Kinny)
3 Beverwyk, and Victoria Sisk; his great-grandchildren, Veda and
4 Daemon Beverwyk; his many nieces and nephews; and his close
5 family friend, Marybeth Vogrinc; therefore, be it

6 RESOLVED, BY THE SENATE OF THE NINETY-EIGHTH GENERAL
7 ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, that we mourn, along with
8 his family and friends, the passing of Donald D. Peasley; and
9 be it further

10 RESOLVED, That a suitable copy of this resolution be
11 presented to the family of Donald Peasley as an expression of
12 our sympathy.