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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 Clifton G. Bergeron of Urbana, who passed away on April 14, 2016; and

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WHEREAS, Clifton Bergeron was born in Los Angeles, California to Lewis G. and Rose Dengel Bergeron on January 5, 1925; he served from 1943 to 1946 as a Corporal in the United States Army 14th Armored Division in England, France, and Germany during World War II; he was awarded the European-African Campaign Medal with two Bronze Battle Stars; he married Laura Kaario in Milwaukee, Wisconsin on June 9, 1950; and

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WHEREAS, Clifton Bergeron graduated from the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign in 1950 with a degree in ceramic engineering and was employed in the research and development laboratories of the A.O. Smith Corp. in Milwaukee, Wisconsin; in 1955, he joined the Whirlpool Corp. of St. Joseph, Michigan as a staff engineer; he returned to the University of Illinois in 1957 and was employed as a research associate in the Department of Ceramic Engineering; he earned his Master of Science in 1959 and his Ph.D. in Ceramic Engineering in 1961; he was appointed an assistant professor in 1961, full professor in 1967, and head of the Department of Ceramic Engineering in

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1 1978; he retired in 1988, but remained active as a consultant
2 to the industry; and

3 WHEREAS, In recognition of Clifton Bergeron's many
4 contributions to his profession, he was named a fellow of the
5 American Ceramic Society in 1967; he received the University of
6 Illinois College of Engineering Everitt Award for Teaching
7 Excellence in 1975, the American Ceramic Society Outstanding
8 Educator Award in 1988, and the ACS Greaves-Walker Award for
9 Professional Achievement in 2005; he was especially pleased
10 when a group of his former students established an endowed
11 scholarship in his name in 2004; and

12 WHEREAS, Clifton Bergeron enjoyed fishing, woodworking,
13 and nature photography; he was a member of the Nature
14 Conservancy, the Izaak Walton League, the Wilderness Society,
15 the Sierra Club, and the Prairie Rivers Network; he served as a
16 volunteer reader for the sight-impaired at the Illinois Radio
17 Reader for a number of years; he was also an avid home wine
18 maker; he and his family enjoyed camping and fishing vacations
19 with his parents throughout northern Illinois and southern
20 Wisconsin; and

21 WHEREAS, In 1968, Clifton Bergeron and his wife bought land
22 on a small lake near the Salt Fork River and spent a great deal
23 of time at a cabin, enjoying many happy weekends relaxing,

1 fishing, and forming enduring friendships with neighboring
2 cabin owners; in later years, they enjoyed visiting Meadowbrook
3 Park, where a small grove of trees and a bench memorialize
4 Laura's love for the park; and

5 WHEREAS, Clifton Bergeron moved to Clark-Lindsey Village
6 in 2006, where he was an active participant in daily life,
7 serving on numerous committees, and contributing articles and
8 nature photographs to The Village Voice magazine published by
9 CLV residents; he eventually rose to the position of Co-Chair
10 of the magazine, and then Chair, serving in those capacities
11 for several years; and

12 WHEREAS, Clifton Bergeron took photographs of the many
13 animals, insects, and plants in nearby Meadowbrook Park, which
14 were enjoyed by his fellow residents; he was given a bulletin
15 board at CLV, "Clif's Nature Corner", where he posted
16 photographs with informative and entertaining captions and
17 quizzes on a regular basis, bringing the natural world indoors
18 to share, particularly with those who had difficulty visiting
19 the park themselves; he collaborated on projects in the
20 workshop with his fellow residents, including building a new
21 scoreboard for use in the outdoor shuffleboard games in the
22 summer; and

23 WHEREAS, Clifton Bergeron was preceded in death by his

1 wife, Laura; his parents; and his sister, Shirley Marsh; and

2 WHEREAS, Clifton Bergeron is survived by his daughter, Ann
3 Bergeron (Kevin Fahey); his son, Louis Bergeron; his niece,
4 Carrie (Mike) Benvenuti; and his nephew, Mike (Pam) Marsh;
5 therefore, be it

6 RESOLVED, BY THE SENATE OF THE NINETY-NINTH GENERAL
7 ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, that we mourn the passing of
8 Clifton G. Bergeron, and extend our sincere condolences to his
9 family, friends, and all who knew and loved him; and be it
10 further

11 RESOLVED, That a suitable copy of this resolution be
12 presented to the family of Clifton Bergeron as an expression of
13 our deepest sympathy.