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LRB104 21088 ECR 35228 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 William Jean "Bill" Meriwether Jr., who passed away on January 5, 2026; and

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WHEREAS, Bill Meriwether was born to William J. and Ferne (Grigsby) Meriwether in Hire Township, McDonough County on November 22, 1928; he attended Willow Grove School, and he graduated from Blandinsville High School in 1946; he served in the United States Air Force during the Korean Conflict; he married Rosalyn Harl in Colusa on June 6, 1954; and

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WHEREAS, Bill Meriwether farmed in the Blandinsville area for 30 years, and he worked as a crop hail adjuster during the summer for several years; he retired from NTN Bower Roller Bearing in 1991 after more than 22 years of service; and

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WHEREAS, Bill Meriwether was involved in numerous organizations, including the Quincy Consistory, Military Tract Lodge #145 IOOF, the McDonough County Retired Teachers Association, USAF 798th AC&W Radar Squadron Alumni, and the Blandinsville Christian Church, and he served as a past commander of American Legion Post 424, a past master of the La Harpe Masonic Lodge, and a past patron of the Macomb Order of the Eastern Star; and

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1 WHEREAS, Bill Meriwether loved collecting many things,
2 including farm toys, antique kerosene lanterns, and pottery,
3 and he crafted various items from wood, including Christmas
4 trees and birdhouses; he also enjoyed buying and selling cars,
5 machinery, tools, and other products; and

6 WHEREAS, Bill Meriwether was preceded him in death by his
7 wife of 53 years, Rosalyn; his parents; his daughter, Judy
8 Bell; and his siblings, Luan Meriwether and Jim Meriwether;
9 and

10 WHEREAS, Bill Meriwether is survived by his children,
11 Dennis and Susanne; his sister, Carolyn Kempfer; his
12 sister-in-law, Sherry Meriwether; and many nieces and nephews;
13 therefore, be it

14 RESOLVED, BY THE SENATE OF THE ONE HUNDRED FOURTH GENERAL
15 ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, that we mourn the passing of
16 William Jean "Bill" Meriwether Jr. and extend our sincere
17 condolences to his family, friends, and all who knew and loved
18 him; and be it further

19 RESOLVED, That a suitable copy of this resolution be
20 presented to the family of Bill Meriwether as an expression of
21 our deepest sympathy.