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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 Benjamin J. "Ben" Bumbry Jr. of Quincy, who passed away on May 10, 2018; and

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WHEREAS, Ben Bumbry Jr. was born in St. Louis, Missouri to Benjamin James and Melzia L. (Walker) Bumbry Sr. on August 24, 1931; he graduated from Sumner High School in St. Louis, Missouri and then attended Drake University in Des Moines, Iowa; he earned a bachelor's degree in physical education from Quincy College, now Quincy University, in 1976; he played basketball for both Quincy College and Drake University; while at Quincy College, the team he was on during the 1954-1955 season earned a berth in the national tournament and broke racial barriers by fielding a starting five that were all African-American; he married Helen E. Robbins in Quincy on March 16, 1957; and

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WHEREAS, Ben Bumbry Jr. worked at Moorman Manufacturing for over 20 years; following his retirement, he went on to teach in the Quincy Public Schools for 22 years; he also coached girls' softball and basketball at Quincy High School; he retired in 2008; and

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WHEREAS, Ben Bumbry Jr. served on the Quincy City Council

1 as Alderman of Ward #1 from 2004 until 2010; he also served on  
2 the Quincy Park Board from 1993 until 2003 and was Director of  
3 the Redmon & Lee Community Center; he was a member of the  
4 Quincy University Board of Trustees and the SIU Board of  
5 Directors; he served as the Executive Director of the  
6 Jackson-Lincoln Pool, where he was a mentor, an employee, a  
7 coach, and a true friend to many young people; he was a guest  
8 lecturer at both John Wood Community College and Quincy  
9 University; and

10 WHEREAS, Ben Bumbry Jr. was a member of Bethel A.M.E.  
11 Church; he was a member of United Lodge #16 of the Free and  
12 Accepted Masons for 54 years; he was also a member of the  
13 Illinois/Missouri Male Gospel Chorus that performed throughout  
14 the Tri-State area; and

15 WHEREAS, Ben Bumbry Jr. was inducted into the Iowa AAU Hall  
16 of Fame as well as into the halls of fame at Sumner High School  
17 and Quincy College; he received the John Quincy Adams Award for  
18 his role in enhancing the quality of life in his community, the  
19 Lincoln Legacy Award from the Adams County Bar Association for  
20 his efforts to foster equality and justice, and an award from  
21 the Martha K. Majors Club for his dedicated service to the  
22 community; in 2014, he received the Humanitarian Award from  
23 Bethel A.M.E. Church; he was awarded an Honorary Doctor of  
24 Humane Letters by Culver-Stockton College for his commitment to

1 education, charity, and community service; and

2 WHEREAS, Ben Bumbry Jr. was well known throughout the area  
3 for his band, Ben Bumbry and the Messengers; he performed for  
4 over 60 years as a professional musician in Quincy and the  
5 Tri-State area, including aboard the Mark Twain River Boat in  
6 Hannibal, Missouri, where he performed for 28 years; he also  
7 helped to organize the Mississippi Muddy Waters Blues Society;  
8 and

9 WHEREAS, Ben Bumbry Jr. was preceded in death by his  
10 parents; his son, Robbin Andre Bumbry; and his brother, Charles  
11 Bumbry; and

12 WHEREAS, Ben Bumbry Jr. is survived by his wife, Helen; his  
13 children, Charles Tyrone Bumbry, Cynthia Marie Bumbry, and  
14 Benjamin James Bumbry III; his grandchildren, Jared Andreas  
15 Bumbry, Jacob Cameron Bumbry, and Monica Marie Bumbry; his  
16 great-grandchildren, Alexander, Aalyah, and Skylar; his  
17 sister, Grace Ann Bumbry; his brothers-in-law, Floyd Robbins  
18 and Leon Robbins; his aunt, Vernie Robbins; and his many  
19 nieces, nephews, cousins, and friends; therefore, be it

20 RESOLVED, BY THE SENATE OF THE ONE HUNDREDTH GENERAL  
21 ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, that we mourn the passing of  
22 Benjamin J. "Ben" Bumbry Jr. and extend our sincere condolences

1 to his family, friends, and all who knew and loved him; and be  
2 it further

3 RESOLVED, That a suitable copy of this resolution be  
4 presented to the family of Ben Bumbry Jr. as an expression of  
5 our deepest sympathy.