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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 Oren C. "Lou" Lowder of Springfield, who passed away on May 8, 2019; and

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WHEREAS, Lou Lowder was born in Virden to Oren and Elenora (Falcetti) Lowder on March 18, 1925; he graduated from Cathedral Boys High School in 1943 and enlisted in the United States Navy during World War II; he served most of his tour as a Gunner's Mate First Class aboard a destroyer escort, the Walter C. Wann; he spent the majority of his active service in the South Pacific, where he earned, among many other citations, five Battle Stars, the Philippine Liberation Medal, and a Philippine Presidential Unit Citation; he married June Ruffing in Nokomis on October 22, 1949 and re-entered the Navy during the Korean War in 1951-1952; and

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WHEREAS, In January 1950, Lou Lowder joined the Illinois State Police (ISP), where he spent 28 years advancing in his career, moving from trooper to Lt. Colonel and Deputy Superintendent; he also served as Executive Security to the Governor, the first statewide Staff Inspection Team member, ISP Staff, chief of the Illinois State Fair detail, Area Commander in charge of the northern half of Illinois including Chicago and Cook County, and the first ISP Legislative Liaison Officer;

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1 additionally, he graduated from the FBI National Academy in
2 Quantico, Virginia; and

3 WHEREAS, In 1977, Lou Lowder retired from the ISP to become
4 Executive Director of the Illinois Motor Vehicle Laws
5 Commission; in 1983, he served as Traffic Safety Advisor under
6 Governor Jim Thompson for a year and then as Highway Safety
7 Advisor to Secretary of State Jim Edgar; he was the National
8 Chair of the American Association of Motor Vehicle
9 Administrator's Committee to Establish Uniform Standards and
10 Criteria for testing and issuing Commercial Drivers Licenses
11 for the Federal Highway Administration; he also served as
12 chairman of the committee that drafted the Illinois Uniform
13 Commercial Driver's License Act; he retired in 1990 after 41
14 years of service to the State of Illinois; and

15 WHEREAS, Lou Lowder was a member of St. Frances Cabrini
16 Parish; he coached CYO basketball for 13 years; he served as
17 chairman of the Parish Council, chairman of the Men's Club, and
18 led two parish fund drives; he and June co-chaired the parish
19 fall festival for several years; for 15 years, he served as the
20 ground maintenance volunteer for the parish grounds; he was
21 also an active member of Knights of Columbus Council 4175 and
22 was named Knight of the Year in 1983; and

23 WHEREAS, Lou Lowder was a member of many civic and

1 fraternal organizations, including the Eagles, the VFW, and the
2 Illinois Police Association; he was an active member of the
3 Golden Gloves Association for over 40 years, serving as
4 director of bouts, president, and franchise holder; and

5 WHEREAS, Lou Lowder loved most sports and was an avid fan
6 of the St. Louis Cardinals; he also made an effort to attend
7 his grandchildren's sporting events; and

8 WHEREAS, Lou Lowder was preceded in death by his parents;
9 his infant son, John Oren Lowder; his granddaughter, Shawna
10 Jones; his brother, Robert Lowder; and his sisters, Helen Bell
11 and Orrine Lowder; and

12 WHEREAS, Lou Lowder is survived by his wife of 69 years,
13 June; his children, Marylou Lowder Kent, Judi Stoppelwerth
14 (BJ), Oren Lowder, Joe "Joby" Lowder (Trish Hannel), John
15 Lowder (Jessica Basham), and Lynn Lowder (Jim Coffey); his
16 grandchildren, Katie Kent-Centeno (Andonie), Nick Kent
17 (Heather Drouillard), Shyla Dallas (Wayne), Cara Dasher
18 (Jason), Candice McCarty (Jared), Oren "CJ" Lowder (Nicole),
19 Josh Lowder (Holly Tucker), Trisha Cottrill (Josh), Jared
20 Lowder, Madison Marr (Rob), Meghan Paul (Matt), Erik Lowder,
21 Lyndsie Herman (Michael Hill), and TJ Herman; 19
22 great-grandchildren and one on the way; and several nieces and
23 nephews; therefore, be it

1 RESOLVED, BY THE SENATE OF THE ONE HUNDRED FIRST GENERAL
2 ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, that we mourn the passing of
3 Oren C. "Lou" Lowder and extend our sincere condolences to his
4 family, friends, and all who knew and loved him; and be it
5 further

6 RESOLVED, That a suitable copy of this resolution be
7 presented to the family of Lou Lowder as an expression of our
8 deepest sympathy.