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SENATE RESOLUTION

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WHEREAS, The members of the Senate of the State of Illinois were saddened to learn of the death of Rabbi Oscar Z. Fasman, formerly of Chicago, on Monday, November 24, 2003; and

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WHEREAS, Rabbi Fasman was born in Chicago and was the descendant of a European rabbinical ancestry; as a boy, he was hired as a guide by a blind rabbi who encouraged him to attend theological school; and

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WHEREAS, Rabbi Fasman graduated from Hebrew Theological College in 1929; in 1930, he graduated from the University of Chicago and married his wife, Jeanette, whom he had met through his rabbi; they moved to Tulsa, Oklahoma, where he became the rabbi of an Orthodox Jewish Synagogue; in 1940, he moved to Ottawa, Canada, to oversee five orthodox synagogues; and

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WHEREAS, Rabbi Fasman returned to Chicago six years later to serve as president of the Hebrew Theological College, becoming the first American-born and American-trained rabbi to head a leading Orthodox Jewish theological seminary in the country; he was instrumental in building its Skokie campus when the school relocated from Chicago's West Side in 1957; the college honored him in 1964 with appointment as its president emeritus and again 17 years later when it named its preparatory high school for young men after him; and

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WHEREAS, After retiring from the college, Rabbi Fasman founded Congregation Yehuda Moshe; he also served from 1977 to 1982 as president of Associated Talmud Torahs, which is the central agency for Jewish education in Chicago; in 1998, he moved to California to be closer to his family; and

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WHEREAS, The passing of Rabbi Oscar Z. Fasman has been deeply felt by many, especially his sons, Chaim and Reuven; his

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1 daughters, Avis Sugarman and Millicent Drebin; his 15
2 grandchildren; his 52 great-grandchildren; and his three
3 great-great grandchildren; therefore, be it

4 RESOLVED, BY THE SENATE OF THE NINETY-THIRD GENERAL
5 ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, that we mourn the passing of
6 Rabbi Oscar Z. Fasman, whose legacy of communal responsibility
7 and leadership will endure forever; and be it further

8 RESOLVED, That a suitable copy of this resolution be
9 presented to the family of Rabbi Oscar Z. Fasman as an
10 expression of our sincerest condolences.