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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 Dr. William Eric "Doc" Perkins, who passed away on September 20, 2011; and

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WHEREAS, He was born on September 3, 1948, in Chicago; his parents were Betty L. Mason and Darrell J. Perkins; he was baptized at St. Finbar Catholic Church and attended St. Dorothy School and Mendel Catholic High School; and

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WHEREAS, In 1966, he began attending Northwestern University in Evanston, where he graduated with honors with a bachelor's degree in philosophy in 1970; he was a "founding officer" of the "For Members Only" (FMO) organization, which spearheaded the Northwestern University "Takeover" in 1968; he subsequently earned his master's degree from the University of Rochester and his Ph.D in history from the City University of New York; and

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WHEREAS, He educated hundreds of students at a variety of institutions; he served as a faculty fellow at the W.E.B. DuBois House at the University of Pennsylvania; he was an adjunct professor of communications at Hunter College at the City University of New York; he was an assistant professor with the African-American Studies department at Temple University;

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1 he also served with Educational Testing Service for 13 years;
2 and

3 WHEREAS, He was well known throughout the academic
4 community in the United States and beyond; he wrote and
5 lectured on various topics, including slavery, Caribbean
6 history, urban studies, and American popular culture; his
7 classes inspired hundreds of students to become rigorous
8 critical thinkers, ardent political activists, and scholars;
9 and

10 WHEREAS, He edited and contributed to "Droppin' Science:
11 Critical Essays on Rap Music and Hip Hop Culture", which was
12 published by Temple University Press in 1996; the book is still
13 considered a critical text in the field of hip hop scholarship;
14 and

15 WHEREAS, He enjoyed watching sports and was particularly
16 thrilled and excited when the New Orleans Saints recently won
17 the Super Bowl; he also enjoyed cooking, photography, and
18 traveling to various countries of the African Diaspora,
19 including Cuba, Brazil, Grenada, Aruba, and Jamaica; he
20 particularly enjoyed learning about and experiencing Creole
21 culture; and

22 WHEREAS, William Eric "Doc" Perkins is survived by his

1 daughter, Sonya Perkins; his son, Logan Bailey Perkins; his
2 grandsons, Miles, Charlie, and Julian Perkins-Strickland; his
3 sister, Darlene Perkins Tribue; his brothers, Antonio Burketh
4 (Lydia) and Lance Richards; his nephews, Edward "Kippy" Tribue
5 (Helen) and Shawn Richards (Miriam); his aunt, Joan Mason; his
6 confidantes, Harold Mitchell, Maurice, and Numa Martinez; his
7 brothers-in-law, Edward and Randall Tribue; and his many
8 nieces, nephews, cousins, friends, and colleagues; therefore,
9 be it

10 RESOLVED, BY THE SENATE OF THE NINETY-SEVENTH GENERAL
11 ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, that we mourn, along with
12 his family and friends, the passing of Dr. William Eric "Doc"
13 Perkins; and be it further

14 RESOLVED, That a suitable copy of this resolution be
15 presented to the family of Dr. William Eric "Doc" Perkins as an
16 expression of our sympathy.