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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. John H. Hess, who passed away on December 5, 2011; and

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WHEREAS, Dr. John Hess was born on August 19, 1925, in the country then known as Yugoslavia; he married Anna Willer in 1957; and

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WHEREAS, Dr. John Hess graduated from high school in June of 1944, the same month as the D-Day invasion of Europe; soon after, an SS officer "invited" him into his unit, which he demurred; he was then forced to work in Reich Labor Force as an auxiliary to the Wehrmacht; en route to Vienna to be forced into an SS division, Dr. Hess and four others jumped off a train; a Gestapo agent questioned them at a train station, but a convincing lie set them free, and they decided that a big city like Vienna was a good place to hide out; the 5 men found work in a helmet factory and remained until Soviet troops captured Vienna in 1945; despite the fact that he was not a soldier, he was declared a prisoner of war in November of 1945 and sent to the Bor prison camp in Yugoslavia; he was also reported as being ethnically German, which was a death sentence in Yugoslavia at the time, but managed to avoid persecution; and

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1 WHEREAS, After being set free from the prison camp, Dr.
2 John Hess returned to his studies; after graduating from Karl
3 Franzens University Medical School in Graz, Austria, he came to
4 the United States and completed an internship and surgical
5 residency at West Suburban Hospital in Oak Park;; he
6 subsequently began his medical career in Fisher in 1958; he
7 retired from practice on February 28, 1995; and

8 WHEREAS, Dr. John Hess was a charter fellow of the American
9 Academy of Family Practice and served as a diplomate of the
10 American Board of Family Practice for 12 years; he was a member
11 of the staff of Covenant Medical Center and served on the board
12 of directors of Mercy Hospital for 13 years; he also served on
13 the Rantoul Township High School board for 10 years; and

14 WHEREAS, Dr. John Hess wrote an unpublished book about his
15 life, including his World War II experiences, called "My Life
16 By Hans Hess"; and

17 WHEREAS, Dr. John Hess is survived by his son, Dr. Art Hess
18 (Kenda Callahan Hess); his daughter, Lydia Haan (Andrew); and
19 his grandchildren, Anna-Kae, Nick, and William; therefore, be
20 it

21 RESOLVED, BY THE SENATE OF THE NINETY-SEVENTH GENERAL

1 ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, that we mourn, along with
2 his family and friends, the passing of Dr. John H. Hess; and be
3 it further

4 RESOLVED, That a suitable copy of this resolution be
5 presented to the family of Dr. John Hess as an expression of
6 our sympathy.