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SENATE RESOLUTION

2           WHEREAS, The members of the Illinois Senate are deeply  
3 saddened to learn of the death of Clarence Henry Smithson, who  
4 passed away on September 18, 2012; and

5           WHEREAS, Clarence Smithson was born on November 4, 1931, to  
6 John Lee and Lou Ora Smithson, the eighth child of 10; he  
7 attended St. Vincent de Paul grade school, Immaculate Mother  
8 High School, and Xavier University in New Orleans; he received  
9 his bachelors of science degree in biology and his master's  
10 degree in science education from Tennessee A&I State  
11 University; and

12           WHEREAS, Clarence Smithson married Abbie on July 17, 1952,  
13 her birthday; they soon had 3 daughters, Janice, Jacquelyn, and  
14 Jean; he bragged that he named all 3 daughters; 10 years later  
15 they had two sons, Clarence Jr. and Clarence III; and

16           WHEREAS, Clarence Smithson served as a medic in the United  
17 States Armed Forces from August 1953 to August 1955, at Fort  
18 Knox, Kentucky; he worked as a lab technician at Vanderbuilt  
19 University and taught biology at Cameron High School; he then  
20 went to work for World Book Encyclopedia and worked for them  
21 for 31 years in various managerial positions, until retiring in  
22 1991; he met every sales goal and won several contests at World

1 Book Encyclopedia, and in 1961 won the coveted Flying Circus  
2 Award, which came with a trip around the world for 30 days; he  
3 and Abbie would see France, England, Egypt, Thailand, India,  
4 and Hawaii; and

5 WHEREAS, Clarence Smithson and Abbie moved to Country Club  
6 Hills in 1980; they were members of St. Emeric's Catholic  
7 Church and have been involved in several ministries; in 1982,  
8 Clarence and Abbie welcomed their daughter, Janice and their  
9 granddaughters, Toi and Briana, into their home to live; in  
10 October of 1997, Clarence and Abbie were honored by the diocese  
11 with the Tolton Award for Catholic stewardship and service; and

12 WHEREAS, Clarence Smithson and Abbie purchased 7 homes  
13 through the years, and Clarence enjoyed spending his time  
14 revamping and rebuilding the basements of these homes to create  
15 recreation rooms for his family and friends to enjoy; he was an  
16 avid pool player, and enjoyed listening to music and playing  
17 table tennis with anyone who came into his home; and

18 WHEREAS, Clarence Smithson was preceded in death by his  
19 parents, John and Lou Ora; his siblings, John Smithson Jr.,  
20 Mary Craighead, Launa Craighead, and Lael Fields; and his two  
21 sons, Clarence Jr. and Clarence III; and

22 WHEREAS, Clarence Smithson is survived by his wife, Abbie;

1 his daughters, Janice (Elbert) Heno, Jacquelyn Howard, and Jean  
2 Smithson-Bell; his grandchildren, Toi (Paul) Hutchinson,  
3 Briana (David) Ramsey, Dwight Howard II, Jordan Bell, and  
4 Joseph Bell; his great-grandchildren, Paul Hutchinson Jr.,  
5 Camryn Hutchinson, Ryan Hutchinson, Diondre Howard, and David  
6 Ramsey Jr.; his sisters, Dorcas Alley, Verleon Grant, Kitty  
7 Haswell, and Sister Sandra Smithson; and more than 400 nieces  
8 and nephews spanning 5 generations; therefore, be it

9       RESOLVED, BY THE SENATE OF THE NINETY-SEVENTH GENERAL  
10 ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, that we mourn the passing of  
11 Clarence Smithson, and we extend our sincere condolences to his  
12 family, friends, and all who knew and loved him; and be it  
13 further

14       RESOLVED, That a suitable copy of this resolution be  
15 presented to the family of Clarence Smithson as an expression  
16 of our deepest sympathy.