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SENATE RESOLUTION

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WHEREAS, Illinois State Senator Mike Jacobs has represented the citizens of the State of Illinois and the families of the 36th Senate District since 2005; and

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WHEREAS, Senator Mike Jacobs joined the Illinois Senate in May of 2005 as the unanimous choice to fill the vacancy created when his father, Senator Denny Jacobs, stepped down from public office after serving the Quad Cities for 14 years; and

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WHEREAS, Senator Jacobs learned the strong values of public service and giving back to his community through the selfless examples provided by his grandmother Caroline "Ma" Jacobs, known for serving plentiful portions of generosity, regardless of a customer's skin color; she is believed to be the first white restaurant owner in Illinois to serve African-Americans at her restaurant, Jake's Cafe; and

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WHEREAS, Senator Jacobs was elected to the Illinois Senate by the voters of the 36th Senate District in 2006, 2008, and 2012; and

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WHEREAS, Senator Jacobs previously served as the downstate liaison for Illinois Secretary of State Jesse White, where he managed driver facilities and operations for 14 counties across

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1 northwest Illinois; and

2 WHEREAS, Understanding the importance of job creation to
3 improve the region's economy, Senator Jacobs worked to make
4 sure the Western Illinois University Riverfront Campus became a
5 reality; Senator Jacobs, together with Representative Pat
6 Verschoore, worked to secure \$62 million to fund the expansion;
7 and

8 WHEREAS, Senator Jacobs worked hard to enhance
9 transportation and economic development opportunities in the
10 Quad Cities area by securing direct flights from the Quad
11 Cities to Washington, DC and by keeping the doors of the Rock
12 Island Arsenal open, thereby securing employment for 7,000
13 employees at the Arsenal; and

14 WHEREAS, Senator Jacobs worked diligently to secure \$150
15 million to expand Amtrak service to the Quad Cities, providing
16 a direct connection between the Quad Cities and Chicago, which
17 will benefit the region for years to come; and

18 WHEREAS, Senator Jacobs saw the Thomson Correctional
19 Center as an economic opportunity for Carroll and Henry
20 Counties and worked with leaders at the federal, State, and
21 local levels to secure the sale of the Thomson Correctional
22 Center to the federal government, which resulted in an influx

1 of over 2,000 long-term jobs in the 36th Senate District and
2 \$165 million in revenue to help balance the State's budget; and

3 WHEREAS, Senator Jacobs helped secure vital funds for the
4 construction of the newly-opened \$40 million KONE Centre
5 development in downtown Moline to create good-paying and stable
6 construction jobs for the residents of the region for years to
7 come; and

8 WHEREAS, Senator Jacobs has been a strong advocate for job
9 creation throughout his career; he worked to amend the Quad
10 Cities Regional Economic Development Authority Act by
11 extending its geographic area to include Jo Daviess, Carroll,
12 Whiteside, Stephenson, and Lee counties; and

13 WHEREAS, As the Chairman of the Senate Energy Committee,
14 Senator Jacobs worked to bring more than a thousand jobs and
15 additional clean energy to Illinois by securing an agreement
16 that required the State to push green energy usage from 3% to
17 5% and promoting an initiative to support wind turbine and
18 transmission manufacturing that resulted in over 1,450 union
19 jobs and approximately \$7 billion worth of investments in
20 innovative wind energy projects; and

21 WHEREAS, Senator Jacobs was honored by the Illinois
22 Committee of Blind Vendors for securing the passage of the

1 Blind Vendors Act, which helped to create vending and
2 concession businesses and provide new opportunities for blind
3 women and men in Illinois to allow them to be self-sufficient
4 and self-employed; and

5 WHEREAS, Acting to promote the independence of our most
6 vulnerable populations, Senator Jacobs worked to pass a law
7 that requires gas stations to make sure there are easily
8 accessible fueling stations for those with disabilities by
9 requiring gas stations to have a call device that allows
10 motorists with disabilities to request assistance; and

11 WHEREAS, To raise cancer awareness, Senator Jacobs worked
12 to pass "Brandon's Law" to raise awareness of testicular cancer
13 in high school health classes; Brandon Ballard died from
14 testicular cancer at the age of 19, and his parents worked with
15 Senator Jacobs to craft legislation to promote cancer awareness
16 to prevent similar tragedies from occurring in the future; and

17 WHEREAS, Senator Jacobs understood the importance of
18 honoring our veterans for the tireless sacrifices they have
19 made for our country; he was recognized by the American Legion
20 Department of Illinois for his commitment to the Veterans
21 Special Programs American National Network; and

22 WHEREAS, To provide the children of the 36th Senate

1 District with excellent educational opportunities, Senator
2 Jacobs fought to secure funding for Silvis School District 34,
3 securing \$11.4 million to construct Northeast Junior High
4 School and renovate the George O. Barr Elementary School; and

5 WHEREAS, Senator Jacobs understood the long-term benefits
6 of providing children with after-school programs; he worked to
7 secure \$600,000 for construction of the Martin Luther King, Jr.
8 Park and \$88,000 for renovations to the organizations' center
9 to strengthen schools, families, and communities and to create
10 additional outlets for children to thrive; and

11 WHEREAS, Senator Jacobs received the 2014 YMCA Legislative
12 Hero Award for his work to secure \$175,000 in funding for
13 renovations to the Two Rivers YMCA and as a symbol of their
14 gratitude for his years of dedication to the YMCA, local youth
15 and teens, and his community; and

16 WHEREAS, Senator Jacobs led the passage of a major State
17 construction plan that brought \$563 million to northwest
18 Illinois, which has been invested in infrastructure, job
19 creation, future construction, and railroad expansion and has
20 provided hundreds of immediate jobs for area residents; and

21 WHEREAS, To help keep businesses open in the 36th Senate
22 District, Senator Jacobs worked with the Wahl Clipper

1 Corporation to secure an incentive package to guarantee that
2 the company would be able to keep up with the growing worldwide
3 demand for its products; when Wahl Clipper discussed moving out
4 of the region to meet its growing business needs, Senator
5 Jacobs worked to ensure that the company kept over 1,000 jobs
6 in Sterling and created additional jobs for local residents;
7 and

8 WHEREAS, Senator Jacobs is the fourth member of his family
9 to serve in the General Assembly; his great-uncle, Charles
10 Carpentier, was a former Illinois Secretary of State, State
11 Senator, and Mayor of East Moline; his grandfather, Oral "Jake"
12 Jacobs, served in the Illinois House of Representatives, on the
13 Rock Island County Board, and as an East Moline Alderman; most
14 recently, his father Denny Jacobs served as Mayor of East
15 Moline and as a State Senator; and

16 WHEREAS, Senator Jacobs is an advocate for labor unions and
17 working families throughout the State and is a former member of
18 3 Quad City area unions: American Federation of State, County
19 and Municipal Employees Local 2025; United Automobile Workers
20 Local 1304; and Laborers' Local Union 309; and

21 WHEREAS, Senator Jacobs' commitment to his district and its
22 communities is demonstrated by the excellent job he has done as
23 a State Senator and by the recognition he has received from

1 numerous groups and organizations, including the Illinois Farm
2 Bureau ACTIVATOR, the Readers' Choice Award in recognition of
3 Best Local Politician, the Downstate Democrat Bald Eagle Award,
4 the Illinois Committee of Blind Vendors' Randolph Sheppard
5 Advocate Award, the Illinois Association of Regional
6 Superintendents of Schools' recognition of Outstanding Service
7 to the schools of the State of Illinois in 2006 and 2011, the
8 Illinois Public Transportation Association's Legislator of the
9 Year Award, and the Associated Fire Fighters of Illinois'
10 Legislative Award for Outstanding Leadership; and

11 WHEREAS, Senator Jacobs is the father of his loving son,
12 Elliott, and the son of Mary Ellen and Denny Jacobs; he will be
13 deeply missed by all in this chamber; therefore, be it

14 RESOLVED, BY THE SENATE OF THE NINETY-EIGHTH GENERAL
15 ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, that we thank State Senator
16 Mike Jacobs for his dedicated service to the people of Illinois
17 and honor him with this resolution; and be it further

18 RESOLVED, That a suitable copy of this resolution be
19 presented to Senator Jacobs with our best wishes for his future
20 endeavors.