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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 Ronnie Cruzat Lewis of Dolton, who passed away on December 3, 2014; and

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WHEREAS, Ronnie Lewis was born in Lexington, Mississippi on December 22, 1944 to Ulysses and Mirian Lindsey Lewis; he graduated from the Lexington Attendance Center and Tennessee State University, where he earned a Bachelor of Science in Industrial Education; he earned his Master of Arts in Administration and Supervision from Roosevelt University in Chicago; he married Mary Blackwell on June 22, 1968 in Indianapolis, Indiana; and

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WHEREAS, Ronnie Lewis worked as a teacher and administrator at Harlan Community Academy for over 30 years, where he served as acting principal, assistant principal, department chairperson, and summer school program manager; while there, he also served as Chairperson of the Professional Personnel Advisory Committee, as Union Representative for the Chicago Teachers Union, and as Chairperson of the Professional Problems Committee; in May of 1998, he was endorsed by the Chicago Board of Education at Chicago State University; he retired as assistant principal in 2000; and

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1 WHEREAS, Ronnie Lewis settled his family in the Village of
2 Dolton in 1980, becoming one of the few African American
3 families in the village; in 1991, he became the first African
4 American trustee; he was appointed interim mayor in November of
5 2008 and was elected mayor in April of 2009; as mayor of
6 Dolton, he was committed to improving the quality of life; he
7 placed an emphasis on job creation, public safety, public
8 participation, and infrastructure improvement; and

9 WHEREAS, Ronnie Lewis took the first of many trips to Ghana
10 in 2007; he helped provide books, laptops, and infrastructure
11 improvements for clean water; as part of African tradition, he
12 was appointed Chief of Dodofie and given the Kingship name Nana
13 Osabarimba; in 2012, the first water borehole was built in
14 Kadjebi, and in 2014, it was named the "Mayor Ronnie Lewis
15 Borehole"; and

16 WHEREAS, Ronnie Lewis was preceded in death by his parents
17 and step-parents, Ulysses and Louise Dixon Lewis and Athaniel
18 and Mirian Lindsey Moody; and

19 WHEREAS, Ronnie Lewis is survived by his wife of 46 years,
20 Mary; his twin daughters, Angeline G. Lewis and Angelique K.
21 Lewis; his brother, Lawrence Lewis; his sister, Angela Y.
22 Moody; his uncle, Fred J. Lindsey; his 2 aunts, Edna Antee
23 Lewis and Muriel Lindsey Sullivan; his 3 godchildren, Joni West

1 Driver, Natalie Mingo, and Willis Arnold Harris, III; his 2
2 brothers-in-law, Herschell Lavell and Howard (Towannda) Means;
3 his 4 sisters-in-law, Alaine Lewis, LaNatta Means, Twana Clark
4 (Danny) Gurien, and Carolyn Means; and many other loving
5 relatives and treasured friends; therefore, be it

6 RESOLVED, BY THE SENATE OF THE NINETY-NINTH GENERAL
7 ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, that we mourn the passing of
8 Ronnie Cruzat Lewis, and extend our sincere condolences to his
9 family, friends, and all who knew and loved him; and be it
10 further

11 RESOLVED, That a suitable copy of this resolution be
12 presented to the family of Ronnie Lewis as an expression of our
13 deepest sympathy.