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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 Ralph Franklin McClain of Alton, who passed away on September 11, 2015; and

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WHEREAS, Ralph McClain was born in Mayfield, Kentucky on January 29, 1923 to Roberta and Noble McClain; he graduated from Mayfield High School, where starting in the 8th grade, he played on the varsity football team; he served in the United States Marines during World War II, stationed in the Philippines; he married Mary Lou Davis on February 7, 1943; he graduated from Murray State University, where he was a varsity fullback and punter all 4 years; on January 1, 1949, he played in the Tangerine Bowl (now the Citrus Bowl) for the Murray State Racers; and

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WHEREAS, Ralph McClain taught at Roosevelt Jr. High School, West Jr. High School, and then Alton High School; he was a teacher and an assistant basketball coach during the spring of 1955 when the Alton Redbirds went to the State tournament; he was also the head football coach during 2 of the seasons that Alton beat East St. Louis back-to-back; he then became an assistant principal at Alton High School; he retired in 1988; and

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1 WHEREAS, Ralph McClain was a devoted Christian, a faithful
2 husband, a great dad, a loving grand "PaPa", and an adoring
3 great-grand "PaPa"; he took part in an Honor Flight to
4 Washington, D.C., saying it was one of the best days of his
5 life; and

6 WHEREAS, Ralph McClain was preceded in death by his
7 parents; his 2 sons, Ralph Franklin McClain II and Jed Franklin
8 McClain; his brother, Joe McClain; and his grandson, Andrew
9 Thompson; and

10 WHEREAS, Ralph McClain is survived by his wife of 72 years,
11 Mary Lou; his children, Pam (Jim) Youngblood, Tanya (Greg)
12 Collins, and Bart (Louetta) McClain; his daughter-in-law,
13 Sally McClain; his 9 grandchildren, Mary Ann (Mike) Vahl, Chris
14 (Kelly) Youngblood, Sarah (Rich) Sitz, Hunter McClain, McClain
15 Thompson, Samuel (Liza) Thompson, Hadley Thompson, Morgan
16 (Cameron) Chappell, and Anna McClain; his 10
17 great-grandchildren, Marnie, Carson, and Lucy Vahl, Will and
18 Joey Youngblood, Andrew, Emma, and Nora Sitz, and Jackson and
19 Ellason Chappell, and one great-grandchild to be born in
20 October; and his brother, Carson McClain; therefore, be it

21 RESOLVED, BY THE SENATE OF THE NINETY-NINTH GENERAL
22 ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, that we mourn the passing of
23 Ralph Franklin McClain, and extend our sincere condolences to

1 his family, friends, and all who knew and loved him; and be it
2 further

3 RESOLVED, That a suitable copy of this resolution be
4 presented to the family of Ralph McClain as an expression of
5 our deepest sympathy.