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## SENATE RESOLUTION

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WHEREAS, The members of the Illinois Senate wish to express their sincere condolences to the family and friends of Rabbi Ahron Soloveichik, who passed away on October 5, 2001; and

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WHEREAS, Rabbi Soloveichik was a member of a family of world-renowned Talmudic scholars with a history that stretches more than 200 years; and

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WHEREAS, Rabbi Soloveichik was born in Khaslavichy, Russia, where his father, Moshe, was the town's rabbi and represented the eighth generation of a Talmudic legacy for scholarship that dates to the 18th Century; his early years were spent amid a wealth of guidance from the Torah's "giants", including the Hafetz Haim, the Gerer rebbe, Yitzhak Hutner, Menachem Zember, and Shlomo Zalman Kahane; and

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WHEREAS, After the Communist Party took power in Russia, the Soloveichik family moved to Poland, and, in 1930, to the United States, where Moshe Soloveichik got a job teaching at Yeshiva University; and

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WHEREAS, After earning a law degree and teaching at several schools in New York, Rabbi Soloveichik became the rosh yeshiva, or spiritual leader and dean at Hebrew Theological College in Skokie in 1966; he founded his own Orthodox Jewish School, Brisk Yeshiva, in Chicago in 1974 and remained the head of the school until his death; after a debilitating heart attack in 1983, he continued traveling to and from New York's Yeshiva University, where he became dean after his brother's, death; and

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WHEREAS, Over the years, Rabbi Soloveichik took many controversial stands, including speaking out in support of civil rights in the 1960s and opposing the Vietnam War; he

1 was by his own account "old fashioned" and held to a view of  
2 Israel that led him to be one of a few leading rabbis to  
3 oppose the 1993 Oslo peace accords between Israel and  
4 Palestine; and

5 WHEREAS, Rabbi Soloveichik has authored many books that  
6 are considered the foremost works of modern Jewish thought;  
7 his works include "Logic of the Heart", "Logic of the Mind",  
8 and "The Warmth and the Light", as well as the prolific  
9 volumes he authored in Hebrew; and

10 WHEREAS, The passing of Rabbi Ahron Soloveichik will be  
11 felt deeply by those who knew and loved him, especially his  
12 sons, Moshe, Chaim, Eliyhu, and Yosef; his daughters Tova  
13 Seigal and Rochel Leeah Marcus; his 40 grandchildren; his 3  
14 great-grandchildren; and his sisters, Shulamit Meiselman and  
15 Anne Gerber; therefore, be it

16 RESOLVED, BY THE SENATE OF THE NINETY-SECOND GENERAL  
17 ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, that we mourn, along with  
18 all who knew him, the death of Rabbi Ahron Soloveichik of  
19 Chicago, Illinois; and be it further

20 RESOLVED, That a suitable copy of this resolution be  
21 presented to the family of Rabbi Ahron Soloveichik with our  
22 sincere condolences.