

1

## SENATE RESOLUTION

2           WHEREAS, The members of the Illinois Senate wish to  
3 express their sincere condolences to the family and friends  
4 of Joseph E. McNaughton, who passed away on March 5, 2002;  
5 and

6           WHEREAS, Joseph E. McNaughton, former publisher of the  
7 Effingham Daily News and former owner of WCRA/WCRC in  
8 Effingham, was a man who dedicated his life to strengthening  
9 his community, loving his family and being an astute  
10 businessman; and

11           WHEREAS, Born in Bicknell, Indiana, in 1919, Joseph E.  
12 McNaughton was the son of Foy F. and Cecille McNaughton; he  
13 married Peggy Ann Fife in 1947 and moved to Effingham; she  
14 preceded him in death on April 30, 2001; and

15           WHEREAS, Joseph McNaughton's father was a newspaperman  
16 who wanted to purchase the Effingham newspaper, but when the  
17 family couldn't work out a deal at that time, Joseph  
18 McNaughton started up radio station WCRA, which went on the  
19 air in June 1947 and, in June 1948, he became president and  
20 general manager of the station; in 1949, the Effingham Daily  
21 News was purchased by the McNaughton family and Joseph  
22 McNaughton became president and general manager; the radio  
23 station later expanded to include an FM station, and for 50  
24 years Mr. McNaughton was president of the Effingham  
25 Broadcasting Co; in addition, he served as publisher of the  
26 Effingham Daily News for 43 years; and

27           WHEREAS, From his start in Effingham, Joseph McNaughton  
28 began to branch out; in 1952, he became president and general  
29 manager of the Elgin Broadcasting Co. and from there, Mr.  
30 McNaughton bought daily newspapers and radio stations in  
31 Illinois, Wisconsin, Iowa and California; and

1           WHEREAS, In his early radio and newspaper days, Joseph  
2           McNaughton played a pivotal role when Effingham's St. Anthony  
3           Hospital burned on April 4, 1949, killing 77 people,  
4           including 12 infants; he set up his radio station on a table  
5           outside the hospital, broadcasting throughout the night, a  
6           first in Effingham history since AM stations were not allowed  
7           to broadcast after dark; not only did his radio station  
8           become a connection for families and community members that  
9           night, Mr. McNaughton also played a very personal role in the  
10          relief effort since he was the Effingham County Red Cross  
11          disaster chairman; and

12          WHEREAS, After the fire, Joseph McNaughton was  
13          instrumental in raising funds to build a new hospital, which  
14          proudly stands today as a memorial to those who lost their  
15          lives; in addition, he headed eight fund drives, including a  
16          drive in 1974 to raise \$1 million for the hospital; and

17          WHEREAS, Mr. McNaughton was always aware that giving back  
18          to one's community was the greatest feat a man could  
19          accomplish, and throughout his life, he concentrated on  
20          making contributions that would strengthen the area's  
21          foundation, included leading the effort in 1953 to build Lake  
22          Sara to ensure Effingham had a sufficient water supply in the  
23          future; and

24          WHEREAS, In addition, Mr. McNaughton quietly built his  
25          radio stations and newspaper to become the voice of the area  
26          people; he served at one time as the president of the  
27          Illinois Daily Newspaper Markets; at the same time, he  
28          continued to contribute to community efforts, often behind  
29          the scenes, where he was active in the local Chamber of  
30          Commerce, was chairman of the United Fund Drive and served as  
31          chairman of the Effingham County Mental Health Board; and

32          WHEREAS, Joseph McNaughton had a full life outside of

1 business and community ties; he enjoyed history, traveling  
2 and hunting; he attended the 1936 Berlin Olympics when he was  
3 17 years old and sat very close to Adolph Hitler, which made  
4 a huge impression on him; from that day on, he loved history  
5 and became a voracious reader; he also visited every Civil  
6 War battle field; and

7 WHEREAS, The passing of Joseph E. McNaughton will be  
8 deeply felt by all who knew and loved him, especially his  
9 daughters, Mary Cecille McNaughton Feezel (husband, Mark  
10 Feezel) and Jo Ann McNaughton-Kade (husband, Christopher  
11 Kade); his brother, Dean McNaughton; his sister, Lou Edith  
12 (husband, Donald) Soldwedel; his grandchildren, Sara  
13 Ingersoll, Adam Helmer, Patrick Mansfield, Stephen Mansfield  
14 McNaughton, Zachary Kade, Kevin Kade, Katie Kade, Chris Kade,  
15 Amanda Kade, Rachel Kade, Molly Kade, Danielle Kade, Suzie  
16 Kade, Joseph Kade, Ellen Kade, William Feezel, and Thomas  
17 Feezel; and his great-grandsons, Ross Mansfield, and Ethan  
18 Mansfield; therefore, be it

19 RESOLVED, BY THE SENATE OF THE NINETY-SECOND GENERAL  
20 ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, that we mourn, along with  
21 all who knew him, the death of Joseph E. McNaughton of  
22 Effingham, Illinois; and be it further

23 RESOLVED, That a suitable copy of this resolution be  
24 presented to the family of Joseph E. McNaughton with our  
25 sincere condolences.