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SENATE RESOLUTION

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WHEREAS, The members of the Illinois Senate wish to express our sincere condolences to the family and friends of Harold C. Johnson, an early leader in Decatur's civil rights movement, who passed away on March 4, 2002; and

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WHEREAS, A lifelong resident of Decatur and a 1959 graduate of Stephen Decatur High School, Mr. Johnson did not take long to show his strength as a leader; and

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WHEREAS, Mr. Johnson was an assistant department manager at Montgomery Ward & Co., when he was elected president of the Decatur branch of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People in 1968 at the age of 31; and

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WHEREAS, Mr. Johnson pledged to recharge the local unit and to work with other community groups interested in providing equal opportunities; in addition, he identified the need to educate black voters about the importance of avoiding straight-ticket voting in the 1972 general election; and

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WHEREAS, Mr. Johnson resigned as NAACP president in 1973, about a year after joining WSOY as a sales representative; he rose to general manager of WSOY and Y103 before moving in the mid-1990s to a position as account executive for TCI Cable Advertising; he joined WBUI-TV in 1999, where he was a senior account executive; and

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WHEREAS, Mr. Johnson was a dedicated member of Antioch Missionary Baptist Church; and

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WHEREAS, The passing of Harold C. Johnson will be deeply felt by all who knew and loved him, especially his wife, Beverly; his daughters, Robin Johnson and Debra Johnson; his son, Steven Johnson; and his grandchildren, Brandon Phillips and Amira Johnson; he was preceded in death by his son, Christopher Johnson; therefore, be it

1 RESOLVED, BY THE SENATE OF THE NINETY-SECOND GENERAL
2 ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, that we mourn, along with
3 all who knew him, the death of Harold C. Johnson of Decatur,
4 Illinois; and be it further

5 RESOLVED, That a suitable copy of this resolution be
6 presented to the family of Harold C. Johnson with our sincere
7 condolences.