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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 Leonard E. Hawthorne of Alton, who passed away on December 21, 2016; and

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WHEREAS, Leonard Hawthorne was born in Doddsville, Mississippi to Jessie L. and Hugh H. Hawthorne on November 11, 1945; he grew up in East St. Louis and graduated from Lincoln High School; he served in the United States Army and earned his Bachelor of Science and Master of Science in Business Education and his certification in education administration from Southern Illinois University Edwardsville; he married Birdia Ruth Woods in 1971 and they settled in Alton; and

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WHEREAS, Leonard Hawthorne began his 32-year career as an educator in Alton Community Unit School District 11; he taught business subjects at Alton High School and the J.B. Johnson Career Development Center; he was a teacher-coordinator for the Distributive Education work-study program, assistant principal at West Junior High School and Alton High School, principal at Lewis & Clark Elementary School, and Title I and Special Services Administrator; he retired in 2003; and

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WHEREAS, Leonard Hawthorne developed, tested, and taught a financial literacy course to Alton High School students, where

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1 he stressed the importance of avoiding the common pitfalls
2 students encounter upon graduating; and

3 WHEREAS, Leonard Hawthorne was involved with several
4 professional organizations, including the National and State
5 Education Association, the National and State Business
6 Education Association, the National Association of Secondary
7 School Principals, and the Illinois Principals Association; he
8 twice received the "Those Who Excel Meritorious Service Award"
9 from the Illinois State Board of Education, once as Alton High
10 School assistant principal, and again as district level
11 administrator; and

12 WHEREAS, Leonard Hawthorne was involved with 100 Black Men
13 of Alton and 100 Black Men Youth 100 W.A.Y.S. Financial
14 Literacy Project; he was also involved with the United Way of
15 Southwest Illinois, the Elijah P. Lovejoy Memorial, and the
16 Madison County Urban League Board and Guild, where he served as
17 Board Chairman; and

18 WHEREAS, Leonard Hawthorne was a lifelong member of Pilgrim
19 Rest Missionary Baptist Church, serving for over 40 years as
20 Trustee Board Secretary and Finance Committee Chairman; he was
21 a Life Member of Kappa Alpha Psi Fraternity and the NAACP; and

22 WHEREAS, Leonard Hawthorne made a difference in the school

1 district and his community; and

2 WHEREAS, Leonard Hawthorne was preceded in death by his
3 wife, Birdia; his parents; his brother, John T. Hawthorne; and
4 his sister, Molly Hawthorne (Patton) Robertson; and

5 WHEREAS, Leonard Hawthorne is survived by his daughter,
6 Melia L. Hawthorne; his son, Antoine (Rebecca) Lawrence; his
7 sister, Ruth H. Clark; his brothers, James (Ruth Ann)
8 Hawthorne, and Hugh H. Hawthorne, Jr.; his mother-in-law, Lovie
9 Woods; his sister-in-law, W. Earnestine Everage; his
10 brother-in-law, Gary D. Woods; his godson, Dirk Johnson, MD;
11 his special friend, Joan Riggs; and a host of nephews, nieces,
12 cousins, and friends; therefore, be it

13 RESOLVED, BY THE SENATE OF THE ONE HUNDREDTH GENERAL
14 ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, that we mourn the passing of
15 Leonard E. Hawthorne, and extend our sincere condolences to his
16 family, friends, and all who knew and loved him; and be it
17 further

18 RESOLVED, That a suitable copy of this resolution be
19 presented to the family of Leonard Hawthorne as an expression
20 of our deepest sympathy.