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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 Melvin Ernest Kamholz of Crystal Lake, who passed away on January 23, 2017 at the age of 96; and

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WHEREAS, Melvin Kamholz was born in Rockford and raised in Marengo; he attended Marengo High School and excelled at track and basketball; not long after graduating in 1938, he was drafted into the United States Army and served four years in the Pacific theater, becoming proficient with the Browning Automatic Rifle and advancing to the rank of Sergeant; slated to be part of the first wave of the invasion of Japan at the end of the war, he and thousands of his fellow soldiers were spared almost certain death by the dropping of the atomic bombs and surrender of Japan in 1945; he met his wife, Mildred Fiepke, when he first spotted her singing in the church choir and then started buying his cigarettes from the grocery store where she worked as a checker; they were married at Zion Lutheran Church in Marengo in 1950; and

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WHEREAS, Melvin Kamholz returned to Marengo after the war and began working as a meter reader at Northern Illinois Gas Company in Crystal Lake; he and his wife started their family soon after and in 1955, moved to their newly-purchased home in Crystal Lake to be closer to his job; he continued at the gas

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1 company until he retired at the age of 62, having worked his  
2 way up from meter reader to service representative; and

3 WHEREAS, Melvin Kamholz was always competitive; he  
4 excelled at basketball as a young man, and his skills on the  
5 court saved him from more than one battle in the Philippines as  
6 his commanding officers recruited him to play in tournaments  
7 against Navy and Air Force teams; after the war, his skill at  
8 softball led him to be a popular player; his greatest claim to  
9 fame was hitting a home run off the nationally famous, "King",  
10 who pitched for the semi-professional King and his Court; his  
11 love and knowledge of baseball led to years of coaching Little  
12 League in Crystal Lake; in his later years, he was an avid  
13 fisherman, golfer, and bowler; he remained actively pursuing  
14 these passions late into life; and

15 WHEREAS, Melvin Kamholz volunteered at the Crystal Lake  
16 Food Pantry and helped with PADS and other church-related  
17 charity work after his retirement; he kept himself busy working  
18 part-time at Bethesda Thrift Shop, and was an invaluable driver  
19 and delivery man for many years at his daughter-in-law's coffee  
20 shop, Two-a-T; and

21 WHEREAS, Melvin Kamholz enjoyed Westerns, reading, playing  
22 cards, and he loved watching the Cubs and college basketball;  
23 he was an unrepentant jokester and loved embarrassing his

1 family at restaurants every chance he could; when he was not  
2 enjoying a beer, he enjoyed the occasional Brandy Old Fashioned  
3 Sweet; his massive collection of beer cans and bottles covered  
4 two walls of his basement man-cave; and

5 WHEREAS, Melvin Kamholz was preceded in death by his  
6 parents, Ernest and Ida (Albrecht) Kamholz; and his siblings,  
7 Howard Kamholz and Phyllis (Kamholz) Kunde; and

8 WHEREAS, Melvin Kamholz is survived by his wife of 66  
9 years, Mildred (Fiepke) Kamholz; his eldest daughter, Karen  
10 Kamholz; his son, Kurt (Debra) Kamholz; his youngest daughter,  
11 Kim (Christopher) Archie; four grandchildren, Josh (Carly)  
12 Kamholz, Jenna (Wesley) Janson, Jack Archie, and Kathryn  
13 Dziejwior; four great-grandchildren, Everett Kamholz, Brittany  
14 Fatzinger, and James and Jonathan Janson; one  
15 great-great-grandson, Mason Fatzinger; and many close friends;  
16 therefore, be it

17 RESOLVED, BY THE SENATE OF THE ONE HUNDREDTH GENERAL  
18 ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, that we mourn the passing of  
19 Melvin Ernest Kamholz, and extend our sincere condolences to  
20 his family, friends, and all who knew and loved him; and be it  
21 further

22 RESOLVED, That a suitable copy of this resolution be

1 presented to the family of Melvin Kamholz as an expression of  
2 our deepest sympathy.