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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 Edward F. Waszak of Crystal Lake, who passed away on July 1, 2017; and

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WHEREAS, Edward Waszak was born Hammond, Indiana to Frank and Clara (Przystas); he was inducted into the United States Army immediately upon graduation from high school; after basic training, he was admitted into the Army Specialized Training Program and was sent to Socorro, New Mexico to study engineering at the New Mexico School of Mines; and

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WHEREAS, Edward Waszak was attached to the 12th Armored Division and was sent to Strasbourg, France; he landed in Europe just in time to begin preparations for the pivotal battle that would later be remembered as "Bloody Herlssheim"; during the retreat, he was captured by the German army and spent the remainder of the war as a prisoner of war in Stalag XI-B; and

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WHEREAS, After the war, Edward Waszak completed his chemical engineering degree at Purdue University; he took his first engineering job at American Maize in Hammond, Indiana, where he met his wife, Therese (Krysinski); in 1965, he began what would be a nearly 30-year career at the Morton Chemical

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1 Company; he worked his way up through the ranks which took him  
2 around the world more times than he cared to count; he went  
3 from plant manager to executive vice president before his  
4 retirement in 1994; and

5 WHEREAS, After retirement, Edward Waszak reconnected with  
6 the 12th Armored Division Association, intent on understanding  
7 the events he experienced as a young soldier from the vantage  
8 point of age and maturity; he voraciously read accounts and  
9 biographies of those involved in the war's decision-making  
10 processes; he became the 12th Armored's historian and wrote  
11 articles for the association's newsletter for over a decade;  
12 these articles became three books: Hellcat Historian, Hellcat  
13 Historian II, and Hellcat Heroes; he was involved in the  
14 American Ex-Prisoner of War Association (Fox Valley Chapter)  
15 and often gave talks to local grade schools about World War II;  
16 and

17 WHEREAS, Edward Waszak was preceded in death by his  
18 parents; his sister, Ann Mazzocco (Leonard); and his brother,  
19 Richard (Ramona); and

20 WHEREAS, Edward Waszak is survived by his wife, Therese;  
21 his daughter, Mary Ellen; his sons, Michael (Denise) and Daniel  
22 (Kimberly); his grandchildren, Christian (Shannon), Brandon  
23 (Kathryn), Alexandra, Adam, and Emily; and his sisters,

1 Jeanette Meier (Everett), Elaine Wolfe (Robert), and  
2 Bernadette Massaro; therefore, be it

3 RESOLVED, BY THE SENATE OF THE ONE HUNDREDTH GENERAL  
4 ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, that we mourn the passing of  
5 Edward F. Waszak, and extend our sincere condolences to his  
6 family, friends, and all who knew and loved him; and be it  
7 further

8 RESOLVED, That a suitable copy of this resolution be  
9 presented to the family of Edward Waszak as an expression of  
10 our deepest sympathy.