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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 Eddie C. Campbell, who passed away on November 20, 2018 at the age of 79; and

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WHEREAS, Eddie Campbell was born in Duncan, Mississippi on May 6, 1939 to parents who were sharecroppers; when he was six, he moved with his family to Chicago, where his mother bought him his first guitar and took him to the old 1125 Club on West Madison Street; shortly after, she introduced him to her friend, Muddy Waters, and by the age of 12, he was sitting in with Waters's band; and

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WHEREAS, As a teenager, Eddie Campbell played in a band with his neighbor, Luther Allison, and later with Little Walter, who was known for revolutionizing the harmonica; he also played sideman with Howlin' Wolf and Little Johnny Taylor; he had a knack for boxing and won 16 heavyweight fights in a row and was once booked to fight a Golden Gloves match against a young Cassius Clay, later known as heavyweight champion Muhammad Ali; his professional boxing career came to an end when he broke his leg in a motorcycle accident; and

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WHEREAS, In 1963, Eddie Campbell became the bandleader for Jimmy Reed and adopted Reed's minimalist guitar playing and

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1 slurred singing style; he also played with Willie Dixon's  
2 Chicago Blues All Stars and Koko Taylor; during this time, he  
3 was known to dress, drive, and perform flamboyantly; he rode a  
4 purple Honda 750 motorcycle; speaking with a newspaper, he once  
5 said, "I have my own true sound"; he also noted, "I write my  
6 own music, I arrange my own music, from bass to the horns," not  
7 as a blues purist but with hints of rock; in 1977, he released  
8 his first LP, *King of the Jungle*, and the cover featured him in  
9 a fur vest with a full Afro; the opening track of the album,  
10 *Santa's Messing with the Kid*, became a Christmas staple and was  
11 covered by Lynyrd Skynyrd; and

12 WHEREAS, In the 1980s, Eddie Campbell was in Europe,  
13 touring and living in the Netherlands and Germany; while  
14 overseas, he met his wife, Barbara, who became his manager;  
15 they returned to the United States in 1992; he then released  
16 several more albums, including the last two with Chicago's  
17 historic Delmark Records; his final album, *Spider Eating*  
18 *Preacher*, was released in 2012 and earned a 2013 American Blues  
19 Award nomination for best traditional blues album; and

20 WHEREAS, Eddie Campbell suffered through health  
21 difficulties that limited his guitar playing in 2013; however,  
22 he still played the harmonica and sang during appearances in  
23 the Chicago area; he "epitomized the West Side sound, which  
24 included R&B and soul," and while he had an excellent voice, he

1 was an acclaimed guitarist and songwriter; and

2 WHEREAS, Eddie Campbell is survived by his wife, Barbara;  
3 his daughter, Sheba; and his son, David; therefore, be it

4 RESOLVED, BY THE SENATE OF THE ONE HUNDRED FIRST GENERAL  
5 ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, that we mourn the passing of  
6 Eddie C. Campbell and extend our sincere condolences to his  
7 family, friends, and all who knew and loved him; and be it  
8 further

9 RESOLVED, That a suitable copy of this resolution be  
10 presented to the family of Eddie Campbell as an expression of  
11 our deepest sympathy.