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SENATE RESOLUTION

2 WHEREAS, Gary Dahl represented the constituents of
3 Illinois' 38th Senate District with distinction for six years;
4 and

5 WHEREAS, During that time he served as the Republican
6 Spokesman on the Local Government and Agriculture Committees,
7 as well as serving as a member of the Consumer Protection,
8 Human Services, State Government and Veterans Affairs, and
9 Transportation Committees; and

10 WHEREAS, He served his country in the United States Army at
11 the height of the Cold War from 1958 to 1962, including
12 numerous assignments across the United States as well as two
13 years in Germany; and

14 WHEREAS, He worked as a truck driver for 20 years, driving
15 large rigs hundreds of thousands of miles during that time; and

16 WHEREAS, After the company he worked for shut down, Gary
17 Dahl started his own trucking business in 1985, Double D
18 Express, which he grew from the ground up into one of Illinois'
19 leading trucking companies; and

20 WHEREAS, In 1992 he started Double D Warehouse, LLC, which

1 today has one million square feet of warehousing space on 50
2 acres; and

3 WHEREAS, Gary Dahl is known for being a loyal and generous
4 employer to his more than 200 employees; and

5 WHEREAS, He continued that generosity by turning Double D
6 Express into an employee-owned company, giving those employees
7 a greater say in how their business is run and a greater stake
8 in its future; and

9 WHEREAS, Gary Dahl has a long history of civic
10 responsibility, and is warmly regarded in the Illinois Valley
11 and beyond for his generosity and good citizenship; and

12 WHEREAS, He has donated hundreds of thousands of dollars to
13 charity and countless hours of his time to worthy causes; and

14 WHEREAS, He has been active in numerous community
15 organizations over the years, including Meals on Wheels, the
16 Habitat for Humanity Foundation Board, the Peru Rotary, Horizon
17 House, the Junior Achievement Board, and numerous church
18 boards; and

19 WHEREAS, Gary and his wife Debbie Dahl demonstrated their
20 love for animals by donating a building and three acres in

1 LaSalle for the Illinois Valley Animal Rescue's permanent home;
2 and

3 WHEREAS He served as a board member on the Illinois Valley
4 Red Cross for six years, helping that organization's local,
5 national, and international relief efforts; and

6 WHEREAS, He served as the two-time president of the
7 Illinois Valley Chamber of Commerce, a position he used to
8 promote the local economy and bring businesses to North Central
9 Illinois; and

10 WHEREAS, During times of local and national disasters, Gary
11 Dahl allowed his business's trucks to be used to help the
12 victims; and

13 WHEREAS, Following the devastating tornado that hit Utica
14 and Granville he provided several of his business's trucks to
15 be used to store victims' belongings; and

16 WHEREAS, Following Hurricane Katrina, he donated several
17 of Double D Express's trucks and warehouse space to collect
18 items sent to the disaster zone; and

19 WHEREAS, As a small-business owner, Gary Dahl was active
20 with several groups connected to his work, including the

1 National Federation of Independent Business, the MidWest
2 Truckers Association, the Illinois Chamber of Commerce, the
3 Illinois Trucking Association, the American Trucking
4 Association, and the Distribution and LTL Carriers
5 Association; and

6 WHEREAS, After years of disappointment and frustration
7 with the direction of state government, Gary Dahl decided to
8 run for the office of State Senator; and

9 WHEREAS, He campaigned on the platform that government
10 should be about "the next generation, not the next election";
11 and

12 WHEREAS, That message resounded with the voters of the 38th
13 District, who elected him their new State Senator in 2004 in a
14 come-from-behind upset victory, his first try at elective
15 office; and

16 WHEREAS, As Senator he always told it like it is, often
17 taking on the powerful interests and government bureaucracy on
18 behalf of his constituents; and

19 WHEREAS, Senator Dahl stood up for his principles during
20 his time in the Illinois Senate, including fiscal
21 responsibility, low taxation, and a limited government

1 accountable to the people, rather than vice-versa; and

2 WHEREAS, With the help of his district aides Jen Riva,
3 Agatha Brennan, and O.J. Stoutner, Senator Dahl established a
4 top-tier constituent outreach operation that helped make
5 government work for the taxpayer; and

6 WHEREAS, He fulfilled his campaign promise to donate his
7 Senate paycheck to charity, eventually donating more than
8 \$400,000 to local charities through the Gary Dahl Charity Fund;
9 and

10 WHEREAS, His dedication as a public servant and no-nonsense
11 approach to government led voters to reelect him with more than
12 60 percent of the vote in 2008; and

13 WHEREAS, He was the three-time winner of the Kankakee
14 County Fair's celebrity goat-milking contest, a feat yet to be
15 matched; and

16 WHEREAS, He sponsored and passed legislation that raised
17 public awareness of Reflex Sympathetic Dystrophy Syndrome
18 (RSDS) a debilitating, neurological syndrome that impacts more
19 than 500,000 Americans; and

20 WHEREAS, He has won numerous awards and recognitions for

1 his work in the Senate, including the Red Cross's Prairie State
2 Good Neighbor Award, the Illinois Chamber's Guardian of Small
3 Business, and the Illinois Farm Bureau Activator Award for
4 being a Friend of Agriculture; and

5 WHEREAS, Gary Dahl was recognized in 2008 by Easter Seals,
6 which honored him with the Outstanding Advocate Award for an
7 Elected State Official for his many good works, both in and out
8 of office; and

9 WHEREAS, As Senator he never forgot his military service
10 and those who have served, fighting for and securing the
11 funding necessary to staff the LaSalle Veterans' Home's 80-bed
12 expansion; and participating as a guardian for two World War II
13 veterans in an Honor Flight to Washington, D.C.; and

14 WHEREAS, He retired from the Senate in the best way
15 possible, of his own choice, in 2010 in order to spend more
16 time with his family and enjoy the warm Arizona winter that has
17 proved elusive to the Land of Lincoln; and

18 WHEREAS, He has been a dedicated husband to his wife
19 Debbie, who has truly been his partner in all areas of life,
20 including family, business, community, and politics; and

21 WHEREAS, He has been a devoted parent to his children,

1 step-children, and grandchildren; and

2 WHEREAS, He received the Gary W. Davis Ethical Leadership
3 Award in 2011 for his commitment to philanthropy and commitment
4 to the Illinois Valley Community College as Senator; and

5 WHEREAS, Gary Dahl was inducted into the Illinois Valley
6 Community College Hall of Fame, class of 2011; therefore, be it

7 RESOLVED, BY THE SENATE OF THE NINETY-SEVENTH GENERAL
8 ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, that we thank Gary Dahl for
9 his years of dedicated service to the people of Illinois as a
10 veteran, as a businessman, as a philanthropist, and as a
11 lawmaker, and honor him with this resolution; and be it further

12 RESOLVED, That a suitable copy of this resolution be
13 presented to Gary Dahl with our best wishes for his future.