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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 Lyle Welch Royal of Virden, who passed away on August 16, 2013; and

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WHEREAS, Lyle Royal was born on January 19, 1920 in Swinton, Missouri to Lyman W. and Mary C. (nee Long) Royal; he graduated from Advance High School in Advance, Missouri and enlisted in the United States Army Air Corps, serving his country in the Pacific Theater during World War II; he married Virginia Margaret Norman in Pascagoula, Mississippi on March 6, 1943 and settled in Cahokia; and

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WHEREAS, Lyle Royal owned and operated Royal's Highway Service Station from 1950-1955; after selling the business, he worked at Parks Bi-State Airport and later became Supervisor of Transportation for Cahokia School District #187; he began his teaching career as a vocational education instructor at Cahokia High School, retiring in 1985; following retirement, he and his wife moved to Virden; and

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WHEREAS, Lyle Royal achieved his dream of obtaining a college education when he was in his 50's by earning both his bachelor's degree and master's degree from Southern Illinois University in Carbondale; and

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1 WHEREAS, While living in Cahokia, Lyle Royal was a member
2 of Maplewood Park Baptist Church, the Emeth Masonic Lodge #1030
3 Ancient Free and Accepted Masons, and the Exchange and Optimist
4 Clubs; upon moving to Virden, he joined the Grace Southern
5 Baptist Church, where he served as deacon; he was an active
6 member of American Legion Post #386 and an avid supporter of
7 the Land of Lincoln Honor Flight to Washington, D.C.; and

8 WHEREAS, Lyle Royal was preceded in death by his parents
9 and by his brother, Gerland "Rusty" Royal; and

10 WHEREAS, Lyle Royal is survived by his wife of 70 years,
11 Margaret; his daughters, Elaine (Robert) Harrell and Cecilia
12 (Douglas) Pitchford; his grandchildren, Rebecca (Jeffrey)
13 Caldwell, Cynthia (Brandon) Shafer, Erick Pitchford, and Tyler
14 (Janna) Pitchford; his great-grandchildren, Ethan and Avery
15 Caldwell, Corban, Eliana, and Jude Shafer, Lucas Pitchford, and
16 Madelynn and Meredith Pitchford; his sisters-in-law, Mary
17 Royal and Dorothy Norman; and several nieces, nephews,
18 great-nieces, great-nephews, and other extended family and
19 friends; therefore, be it

20 RESOLVED, BY THE SENATE OF THE NINETY-EIGHTH GENERAL
21 ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, that we mourn the passing of
22 Lyle Welch Royal, and extend our sincere condolences to his

1 family, friends, and all who knew and loved him; and be it
2 further

3 RESOLVED, That a suitable copy of this resolution be
4 presented to the family of Lyle Royal as an expression of our
5 deepest sympathy.