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SENATE RESOLUTION

WHEREAS, The members of the Illinois Senate are saddened to learn of the death of E. Leslie "Les" Conkling of Kempton, who passed away on September 16, 2014; and

WHEREAS, Les Conkling was born in Princeton on December 20, 1931 to Howard and Elna Mae (nee Sparling) Conkling; he graduated in 1949 from Princeton High School; he received his Associate's Degree from Ogelsby Junior College and his Bachelor Degree in Teacher Education from Northern Illinois University; he did his post-graduate work at Indiana University and Louisiana Tech University and received his Master of Education from the University of Illinois Champaign-Urbana; he married Sandra J. Jacobs on June 6, 1956 in Dekalb; and

WHEREAS, Les Conkling was a teacher, coach, and principal for the Kempton-Cabery and Tri-Point School district for 30 years, retiring in May of 1990; he coached high school football at Kempton-Cabery High School and was the first high school football coach and principal for the newly consolidated Tri-Point High School in 1969; he coached basketball, track, and baseball for Tri-Point Schools; he was also a coach for Kempton-Cabery Little League baseball and led the Kempton-Cabery Colts Summer League Baseball Team to multiple championships; and

1 WHEREAS, Les Conkling was very active with the Republican
2 Party; he was the Ford County Republican Precinct Committeeman
3 of Mona Township from 1974 to 2004 and the Ford County
4 Republican Chairman from 1978 to 1998; he was the Secretary of
5 the Illinois Republican County Chairman's Association from
6 1986 to 1990 and served as an Illinois State Representative
7 from July of 1991 to January of 1993 for the old 87th District;
8 he served his community by being both a member of the Kempton
9 Village Board and Kempton Fire Department for over 30 years;
10 and

11 WHEREAS, After retirement from education, Les Conkling
12 worked for the Illinois Department of Transportation for over 9
13 years, retiring in December of 2002; and

14 WHEREAS, Les Conkling enjoyed skiing, fly fishing, and
15 following his Fighting Illini; he also enjoyed reading,
16 traveling, and was most passionate when working with youth,
17 coaching, and volunteering; and

18 WHEREAS, Les Conkling was preceded in death by his wife,
19 Elna and his parents; and

20 WHEREAS, Les Conkling is survived by his children, Ted
21 (Valerie) and Howard (Mary); his grandchildren, Danielle

1 (Andrew) Donley, Ian Conkling, Brooke (Ben) Carton, Emily
2 Conkling, and Michael Conkling; and his great-grandchildren,
3 Alexis and Wade Donley; therefore, be it

4 RESOLVED, BY THE SENATE OF THE NINETY-EIGHTH GENERAL
5 ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, that we mourn the passing of
6 E. Leslie "Les" Conkling, and extend our sincere condolences to
7 his 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 Les Conkling as an expression of our
11 deepest sympathy.