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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 Senior Master Sergeant Richard Lee Leonard, USAF (Ret.), who passed away on July 28, 2025; and

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WHEREAS, SMSgt Leonard, the son of William Donald Leonard and Dorothy Lorein Leonard, was born in Springfield on December 13, 1940; and

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WHEREAS, SMSgt Leonard served in the United States Armed Forces for over 27 years, beginning in the Navy for six years and continuing in the Air Force for 21 years; his military career spanned both the Korean and Vietnam Wars; and

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WHEREAS, SMSgt Leonard was honored with numerous awards and decorations for his military service, including the Republic of Vietnam Campaign Medal, the Vietnam Service Medal, the National Defense Service Medal, and the Meritorious Service Medal; and

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WHEREAS, SMSgt Leonard returned to Dawson after his retirement, residing there with his wife, Janelle Heckwine Leonard, until her passing; he then moved to Brenham, Texas, where he resided for the remainder of his life; and

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1           WHEREAS, SMSgt Leonard enjoyed attending car shows, going  
2 on drives, and taking the occasional trip to the horse track;  
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4           WHEREAS, SMSgt Leonard led a life dedicated to service,  
5 family, and country; he was known for his strong character,  
6 quick wit, and his deep devotion to those he loved; he touched  
7 countless lives and leaves behind a legacy of strength,  
8 generosity, and patriotism; and

9           WHEREAS, SMSgt Leonard was preceded in death by his  
10 parents; his wife; and his siblings, Marilyn Leonard, Michael  
11 Leonard, Harry Leonard, and Molly Leonard Smith; and

12           WHEREAS, SMSgt Leonard is survived by his siblings,  
13 Shirley Pickel, Fred Leonard, Lee Anne Ross, and Steve  
14 Leonard; his children, Tammy (Pete) Hill, Ricky (Tammy)  
15 Leonard, Parrish "Mike" (Kami) Leonard, Charri (TJ) Jung, and  
16 Shane (Prissy) Leonard; his stepchildren, Sherry "SherBear"  
17 Gabbard, Jerry "Leroy" Howell, Harry "Chip" Howell, Mindie  
18 Howell, Tiffiney Prytherch, and Tony Prytherch; 23  
19 grandchildren; 33 great-grandchildren; and his loyal  
20 companion, Wrigley; therefore, be it

21           RESOLVED, BY THE SENATE OF THE ONE HUNDRED FOURTH GENERAL  
22 ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, that we mourn the passing of

1 Senior Master Sergeant Richard Lee Leonard, USAF (Ret.) and  
2 extend our sincere condolences to his family, friends, and all  
3 who knew and loved him; and be it further

4 RESOLVED, That a suitable copy of this resolution be  
5 presented to the family of SMSgt Leonard as an expression of  
6 our deepest sympathy.