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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 Ronald "Ron" Williamson of Glen Carbon, who passed away on May 6, 2018; and

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WHEREAS, Ron Williamson was born in Wood River to R. Arthur and Marcella (Perrottet) Williamson on February 17, 1939; he grew up on the family farm in Dorsey and graduated from Edwardsville High School in 1956; he married Anita Whited on July 19, 1958; he continued his education at Washington University, attending school full-time while married with children and working full-time; as a student, he was elected President of Tau Beta Pi, Vice President of ETA Kappa Nu, and Secretary of IEEE; he graduated from Washington University with honors with a Bachelor of Science in Electrical Engineering in 1965; he then earned a Master of Science in Electrical Engineering from the Server Institute at Washington University in 1967; and

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WHEREAS, Ron Williamson began working for McDonnell Aircraft in February 1957; his many accomplishments there included being project leader for multiple programs, including project engineer for a facility that J.S. McDonnell called the "greatest in the free world"; he also worked in the Research Department and Phantom Works and served on numerous budgetary,

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1 planning, and union negotiation committees; he retired from
2 McDonnell Douglas in February 1994; he then returned to work
3 his farms in Dorsey and Gillespie; and

4 WHEREAS, Ron Williamson was active in his community and
5 coached Little League baseball, church basketball, and YMCA
6 soccer; he served the First Presbyterian Church as chair of the
7 building and finance committee, elder, and deacon; he also
8 served on the YMCA Board of Directors as the first Vice
9 President of programs, where he started the YMCA soccer league,
10 and the first Vice President of finance, where he started the
11 YMCA Century Club; he was Chairman of the Board when the Esic
12 YMCA's debt was retired; recently, he was a fund raiser for
13 Washington University and was a member of the Eliot Society;
14 his numerous awards included the Teammate of Distinction Award,
15 the Missouri Society of Professional Engineers Student Award,
16 and the NSF Fellowship for graduate school; and

17 WHEREAS, Ron Williamson exuded personality; as a father and
18 grandfather, he showed the importance of being driven to pursue
19 knowledge and excellence; he also showed the endless fun and
20 possibility that these traits offered; his personal tool room
21 was unforgettable and reminded his grandchildren that life
22 should be filled to the brim with curiosities, knowledge, and
23 memories; and

1 WHEREAS, Ron Williamson was preceded in death by his
2 parents and his two brothers-in-law, Wayne Metz and Earl
3 Whited; and

4 WHEREAS, Ron Williamson is survived by his wife, Anita; his
5 children, Rhonda (Dr. Larry) Ketner, Rodney (Kathy)
6 Williamson, and Randy (Karen) Williamson; his grandchildren,
7 Braden, Ron, Jesse, Emily, Aaron, Christopher, Tara, and
8 Kaylynn; his six great-grandchildren; and his sister, Darlene
9 (Don) Gusewelle; therefore, be it

10 RESOLVED, BY THE SENATE OF THE ONE HUNDREDTH GENERAL
11 ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, that we mourn the passing of
12 Ronald "Ron" Williamson and extend our sincere condolences to
13 his family, friends, and all who knew and loved him; and be it
14 further

15 RESOLVED, That a suitable copy of this resolution be
16 presented to the family of Ron Williamson as an expression of
17 our deepest sympathy.