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SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION

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WHEREAS, It is highly fitting that the Illinois General Assembly pays honor and respect to those individuals who have contributed to the success of their community and the State; and

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WHEREAS, Ira Collins began his career as an entry-level hospital attendant in Nevada, Missouri; during his first five years, he worked as a direct care worker and activity therapy aide for people with mental illnesses; in 1964, his career emphasis expanded when he was assigned the responsibility for directing all programs and services for individuals who lived at the three Missouri state schools and hospitals for people with intellectual disabilities; and

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WHEREAS, Ira Collins served as Director of Special Olympics for the state of Missouri in 1969 and 1970; he was recruited by the State of Illinois to serve as State program coordinator for individuals with developmental disabilities in 1970; his accomplishments as the State program coordinator were recognized by Governor Ogilvie with a Superior Achievement Award in 1971; he was named director of the Kankakee State Hospital in 1974 and was assigned the task of converting the hospital from a center that simply warehoused those with mental illness to one which worked to improve the lives of those with

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1 disabilities; and

2 WHEREAS, After the successful conversion of the facility,
3 Ira Collins served as the Director of the Shapiro Center for 45
4 years; he maintained an excellent reputation for the provision
5 of superior services, and the Center has not only been
6 recognized as the best State operated center in Illinois, but
7 it has also been recognized as one of the best in the United
8 States; and

9 WHEREAS, While serving as Director of the Shapiro Center,
10 Ira Collins frequently served in dual roles, including as
11 Facility Director of the Howe Developmental Center, as Regional
12 Director, and more recently, as Facility Director of the
13 Lincoln Developmental Center; from 1987 until 1991, he served
14 as the Deputy Director of the Department of Mental Health and
15 Developmental Disabilities; and

16 WHEREAS, Ira Collins has a Bachelor of Science in Human
17 Relations and Psychology and a Master of Science in Special
18 Education and Administration and is an Illinois Licensed
19 Nursing Home Administrator; he and his wife have four sons, ten
20 grandchildren, and nine great-grandchildren; therefore, be it

21 RESOLVED, BY THE SENATE OF THE ONE HUNDRED FIRST GENERAL
22 ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

1 CONCURRING HEREIN, that we designate the Administration
2 Building at the Shapiro Development Center at 100 E. Jeffery
3 Street, Kankakee, Illinois as the Ira Collins Administration
4 Building; and be it further

5 RESOLVED, That the Department of Human Services is
6 requested to erect, at suitable locations, appropriate plaques
7 or signage giving notice of the name "Ira Collins
8 Administration Building"; and be it further

9 RESOLVED, That we commend Ira Collins on his distinguished
10 career and his lifelong dedication to the people of Illinois;
11 and be it further

12 RESOLVED, That suitable copies of this resolution be
13 presented to the Director of the Department of Human Services
14 and Ira Collins.