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SENATE RESOLUTION

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WHEREAS, The members of the Senate of the State of Illinois learned with sadness of the death of Percy Jerome Burnett of Chicago on March 15, 2005; and

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WHEREAS, Mr. Burnett was born on February 16, 1927, to the union of John and Blanche Burnett in Chicago; and

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WHEREAS, He married his high school sweetheart, Vivian Tolbert; and

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WHEREAS, Mr. Percy, or Mr. P, as he was affectionately known, attended Medill Grammar and High School in Chicago; he joined the United States Army in 1945 and later received an honorable discharge; he retired from Dad's Old Fashioned Root Beer Company in Chicago after 35 years of service; and

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WHEREAS, He was baptized at the Mercy Seat Baptist Church in Chicago by the late Reverend Waller; all who knew and loved him will miss his hearty laughter and bright smile; and

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WHEREAS, He was preceded in death by his parents, his wife, and one brother, Lamar Burnett; and

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WHEREAS, He leaves to cherish his memory his loving companion of twenty years, Mellow Lee Beasley; his sisters, Connie Wonten and Ora Lee Scott; his sister-in-law, Bernice Burnett; a special daughter, Barbara (husband, Melvin, Sr.) Lightford; his four grandchildren and eight great-grandchildren; and a host of nieces, nephews, cousins, and friends; and

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WHEREAS, Senator Kimberly A. Lightford and the Lightford Family will always remember the loving kindness and support Mr. P. gave each of them over the many years; the memory of his

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1 smile warms their hearts when they remember the great times
2 spent together as a family and the love he had for their
3 Granny; therefore, be it

4 RESOLVED, BY THE SENATE OF THE NINETY-FOURTH GENERAL
5 ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, that even as his death is
6 mourned, we give thanks for the blessing of Percy Jerome
7 Burnett's life and extend our sincerest condolences to his
8 family and friends, whose grief we share; and be it further

9 RESOLVED, That a suitable copy of this resolution be
10 presented to his family as an expression of our deepest
11 sympathy.