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SENATE RESOLUTION

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WHEREAS, The members of the Senate of the State of Illinois learned with regret of the death of William E. Wannemaker of Downers Grove on Thursday, July 7, 2005; and

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WHEREAS, He was born and raised in Tinley Park and a was graduate of Thornton Community High School in Harvey; he enlisted in the U.S. Army Air Forces when he was 17 and trained to be a tail gunner for B-17 and B-29 bombers in World War II; the war ended prior to his being shipped overseas; and

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WHEREAS, After his military discharge, Mr. Wannemaker returned to the Chicago area and worked with his father as a well digger; in 1947, he married his wife, Ruth, and they made their home in Tinley Park; he worked for his father-in-law at Gee Lumber, and in the early 1960s, he helped found the E.G. Home Center stores in Carol Stream and Downers Grove; and

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WHEREAS, In 1967, he set out on his own by purchasing the Tollgate Nursery on Ogden Avenue in Downers Grove, which he renamed as Wannemaker's five years later; with the help of his two sons, he turned the business into a complete home center, selling lumber, hardware, plumbing, paint, and electrical products; and

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WHEREAS, He had been a Downers Grove resident since 1971 and was a longtime member of the Rotary Club and Naperville Country Club; for many years, he served on the board of directors of the Downers Grove National Bank; and

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WHEREAS, The passing of William E. Wannemaker has been deeply felt by many, especially his wife, Ruth; his sons, Bob and James; his daughters, Lyn Konsoer and Kay Yeretsky; his sister, Bernetta Cristl; and his 11 grandchildren; therefore, be it

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1 RESOLVED, BY THE SENATE OF THE NINETY-FOURTH GENERAL
2 ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, that we mourn the passing of
3 William E. Wannemaker, and we extend our sincere condolences to
4 his family, friends, and all who knew and loved him; and be it
5 further

6 RESOLVED, That a suitable copy of this resolution be
7 presented to his family as an expression of our deepest
8 sympathy.