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SENATE RESOLUTION

WHEREAS, The members of the Senate of the State of Illinois learned with regret of the death of William "Bill" Bryant of Bethalto on Monday, December 5, 2005; and

WHEREAS, He was born a twin son on July 3, 1927, to Samuel L. and Maude (Burton) Bryant; he married the former Thelma D. (Newell) on October 10, 1949; she preceded him in death on July 9, 1999, after almost 50 years of marriage; and

WHEREAS, He loved his country and his hometown of Bethalto, and he was very civic-minded; he served a short time in 1948 with the Illinois National Guard and the National Guard of the United States; he was later honorably discharged to take care of his ailing parents; and

WHEREAS, In 1951, he became an employee of Union Electric Co., now known as AmerenCIPS, in the Alton meter department; he retired in 1986 after 35 years of service; and

WHEREAS, In 1947, he helped arrange the Cottage Hills Volunteer Fire Department; he served as president, secretary, and treasurer, and was later elected chief for 20 years; in the 1950s and 1960s, he was a deputy sheriff for Madison County; he was elected assistant Wood River Township supervisor in 1957 and 1961; and

WHEREAS, He received a 25-year service award from the Department of Law Enforcement from Governor Richard B. Ogilvie; he also received 12 diplomas in firefighting from the University of Illinois; he was elected Democratic precinct committeeman in Cottage Hills 15 and Bethalto 26 for 47 years, and most important to him was becoming a member of the First Baptist Church of Bethalto and serving the Lord Jesus Christ; and

1 WHEREAS, He wanted to be remembered for his undying love
2 for his family and caring for his fellow man to make the world
3 a better place; and

4 WHEREAS, The passing of William "Bill" Bryant has been
5 deeply felt by many, especially his children, John and Rhonda
6 Schilling, Lloyd "BoBo" and Kathy Schilling, William "Mike" and
7 Dianna Bryant, Samuel L. and Nancy Bryant, Mayor Steve A. and
8 Anita Bryant, Rick and Sandra (Bryant) Wieckhorst, and Arvel
9 and Cynthia (Bryant) Beecher; and his 16 grandchildren and many
10 great-grandchildren; he was preceded in death by his parents,
11 his wife, and his granddaughter, Tara L. Bryant, who passed
12 away in 1998; therefore, be it

13 RESOLVED, BY THE SENATE OF THE NINETY-FOURTH GENERAL
14 ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, that we mourn the passing of
15 William "Bill" Bryant, who will long be remembered for his many
16 contributions to the people of his area and as an example in
17 public service, and we extend our sincere condolences to his
18 family, friends, and community; and be it further

19 RESOLVED, That a suitable copy of this resolution be
20 presented to his family as an expression of our deepest
21 sympathy.