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HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION

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WHEREAS, The members of the Illinois General Assembly wish to pay tribute to and acknowledge former U.S. Senator Alan J. Dixon's contributions to his hometown of Belleville, the State of Illinois, and the nation and congratulate him for having the Senator Alan J. Dixon Student Center at Lindenwood University-Belleville named after him; and

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WHEREAS, Lindenwood University-Belleville will honor Alan J. Dixon by naming its student center the Senator Alan J. Dixon Student Center; we congratulate him for this honor and his distinguished service to the State of Illinois; and

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WHEREAS, The Senator Alan J. Dixon Student Center will provide Lindenwood University-Belleville students with a state of the art research library, an ergonomically-designed computer lab, a dining hall, a contemporary student lounge, and a spirit shop; as a tribute to Senator Dixon, the library will also showcase a museum of his political accomplishments; and

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WHEREAS, Alan J. Dixon was born and raised in Belleville; he graduated from Belleville Township High School, now the Lindenwood University-Belleville campus; he began his 43-year political career in law school, when he was elected to serve as Belleville Police Magistrate; at the age of 22, he was elected

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1 one of the youngest legislators ever elected to serve in the
2 Illinois House of Representatives; and

3 WHEREAS, Alan J. Dixon rose through the ranks of State
4 government as an Illinois State Representative for 12 years,
5 where he was an advocate for higher education and co-sponsored
6 legislation which produced Illinois' community college system;
7 and

8 WHEREAS, Alan J. Dixon served in the Illinois State Senate
9 for eight years, rising to Assistant Democratic Leader; he was
10 elected to serve as Illinois State Treasurer in 1970; from 1977
11 to 1981, he served as Illinois Secretary of State, an office he
12 won by a margin of 1.3 million votes; his 1.5 million
13 re-election majority marked the only time a candidate from
14 either political party ever carried all 102 Illinois counties
15 in an election, including all 30 townships in suburban Cook
16 County and all 50 wards in the City of Chicago; and

17 WHEREAS, Alan J. Dixon was well known as a gregarious
18 politician and was revered as "Al the Pal" among friends,
19 colleagues, and news pundits; his staff wore "I'm Al's Pal"
20 campaign buttons in the 1980 campaign for the United States
21 Senate; he was elected to the United States Senate that year;
22 and

1 WHEREAS, Alan J. Dixon won his first election to the United
2 States Senate by more than 600,000 votes; he won his
3 re-election to the United States Senate in 1986 by more than
4 950,000 votes; and

5 WHEREAS, In 1988 and again in 1990, Alan J. Dixon was
6 unanimously selected by his party colleagues to serve as the
7 chief deputy whip of the United States Senate, the number three
8 leadership post; Senator Dixon enjoyed an unbroken string of 29
9 election victories; and

10 WHEREAS, At the request of President Bill Clinton, Alan J.
11 Dixon served as chairman of the Defense Base Closure and
12 Realignment Commission in 1994 and 1995, a job that called for
13 both national defense knowledge and good political ties with
14 Democrats and Republicans; as a former chairman of an important
15 Senate Armed Services Subcommittee, he had the defense
16 knowledge required for the job; on the second requirement of
17 good ties with both parties, Democrats and Republicans have
18 always mutually respected Senator Dixon; and

19 WHEREAS, Alan J. Dixon is presently a partner with the St.
20 Louis, Missouri based law firm, Bryan Cave, LLP, where he
21 serves corporate and government clients; he is married to Joan
22 Fox Dixon and has three children, Stephanie, Jeffrey, and
23 Elizabeth, eight grandchildren, and five great-grandchildren;

1 therefore, be it

2 RESOLVED, BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE
3 NINETY-SEVENTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, THE
4 SENATE CONCURRING HEREIN, that we congratulate former United
5 States Senator Alan J. Dixon on the occasion of having the
6 Senator Alan J. Dixon Student Center at Lindenwood
7 University-Belleville named after him and recognize and thank
8 him for his innumerable achievements and efforts on behalf of
9 his hometown of Belleville; and be it further

10 RESOLVED, That a suitable copy of this resolution be
11 presented to Alan J. Dixon as an expression of our utmost
12 respect and esteem.