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SENATE RESOLUTION

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WHEREAS, The members of the Illinois Senate are saddened to learn of the death of Nick Perica of Alton, who passed away on September 22, 2010; and

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WHEREAS, He was born on November 5, 1921, in Alton, to Ivan and Bozica Perica, immigrants from Dalmatia, Austria-Hungary; he attended Alton schools and in 1941, while working for Standard Oil Barge Line, became a United States Army soldier; in 1942, he was a Presidential Honor Guard for President Franklin Delano Roosevelt, and was then selected to be a member of the elite and top secret intelligence organization, the (OSS) Office of Strategic Services; due to his knowledge of foreign languages and the combination of mental and physical toughness, the patriotic duty was to help America win the war; and

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WHEREAS, His World War II duties included saving the lives of many downed airmen behind enemy lines, and he trained resistance fighters to help fight for freedom in their countries; while working as a covert undercover agent in Italy he met and married his wife of 65 years, Ivka Eva Perica; and

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WHEREAS, After the war, he worked at Laclede Steel Company of Alton for 40 years; he was a lifelong Roman Catholic and

1 member of St. Mary's Catholic Church in Alton; he was a proud
2 member of the Disabled American Veterans, the VFW Alton Post
3 1308, the Eagles of Alton F.O.E. 254, Wood River Moose Lodge
4 1349, the Knights of Columbus in Highland Council # 1580, and
5 the old Rock Springs Caddies; and

6 WHEREAS, His interests included dancing, photography,
7 golf, bird watching, nature, woodworking, and telling war
8 stories; his favorite activity was visiting with friends and
9 family; and

10 WHEREAS, He was preceded in death by his parents; his
11 brothers and sisters, Peter (Mary), John (Minnie), Louis
12 (Gladys), Mary (Joe) Tasso, Lelia (Russell and Frank)
13 Harris-Stimac, Julia (John) Schneto, and Joe (Jean); and

14 WHEREAS, Nick Perica is survived by his wife, Ivka; their
15 sons and families, Marion (Kathy), Nick A., Bob (Melissa),
16 David, and George (Pat); their grandchildren, Michelle Kiger,
17 Jennifer (Todd) Russell, Amy (Leonard) Madalon, Stephanie
18 (Dan) Fitzgerald, Nicole (Brandon) Gerken, Danielle Perica,
19 Alex Perica, and Leigh and Tess Perica; their
20 great-grandchildren, Lenny and John Madalon; his sister, Rose
21 Sorbie Secord; and many nieces and nephews, both in the USA and
22 Croatia; he will also be deeply missed by many family and
23 friends, especially, Pete Perica and friends, Mark Gentry and

1 Cal Ennis; therefore, be it

2 RESOLVED, BY THE SENATE OF THE NINETY-SEVENTH GENERAL
3 ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, that we mourn, along with
4 his family and friends, the passing of Nick Perica; and be it
5 further

6 RESOLVED, That a suitable copy of this resolution be
7 presented to the family of Nick Perica as a symbol of our
8 sincere sympathy.