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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 Harry Stewart of Benton, who passed away on September 18, 2011; and

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WHEREAS, He was born November 24, 1929, in Benton, the son of Alex and Stella (Pusch) Stewart; he married the former Miriam Whaley on July 16, 1954; and

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WHEREAS, He grew up in West City, the son of immigrant parents, and was an All-State football player for Benton High School; he received more than 80 college football scholarship offers and chose to attend the University of South Carolina, where he was a three-year starter as offensive and defensive tackle; in his senior year of college, he was drafted into the Army during the Korean conflict; at the time, he had received draft letters from every professional American and Canadian football team; however, his military service prohibited him from pursuing a career in professional football; and

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WHEREAS, Upon his discharge from the Army, he finished his teaching degree at SIU Carbondale; he taught high school and coached football at both Herrin High School and Benton Consolidated High School; he was inducted into the Illinois High School Football Coaches Association Hall of Fame in 1986;

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1 and

2 WHEREAS, He began his political career on the Benton City
3 Council, where he served as finance commissioner; he then
4 served on the Franklin County Board, representing District 2
5 for 16 years, 12 of which he held the position of county board
6 chairman; he was a member of St. Joseph Catholic Church, the
7 Boneyard Bocce Ball Club, the Benton American Legion, and the
8 Benton Elks; and

9 WHEREAS, He was preceded in death by his parents; his
10 brothers, Steve and Nick Stewart; his sisters, Anna O'Connell
11 and Stella Perino; and his niece, Iris Hampleman; and

12 WHEREAS, Harry Stewart is survived by his wife of 57 years,
13 Miriam Stewart; his children, Lex and Shannon Stewart, Laura
14 Stewart, and Kelly Stewart; his grandsons, Alex and Christy
15 Stewart, Jon Pulliam, and Landon Stewart; his great-grandsons,
16 Daniel Stewart Hobbs and Braxton Stewart; his nephews, Steve
17 Stewart and Nick Stewart Jr.; his niece, Jane Stewart-Lau; and
18 several great-nieces and great-nephews; therefore, be it

19 RESOLVED, BY THE SENATE OF THE NINETY-SEVENTH GENERAL
20 ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, that we mourn, along with
21 his family and friends, the passing of Harry Stewart; and be it
22 further

1 RESOLVED, That a suitable copy of this resolution be
2 presented to the family of Harry Stewart as a symbol of our
3 sincere sympathy.