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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 George William "Bill" Wilson of West Frankfort, who passed away on October 30, 2011; and

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WHEREAS, He was born April 16, 1947 in Mount Vernon to George C. and Elouise Marshall Wilson; he was a graduate of Benton High School; he married Cathy Guminski on March 14, 1970; and

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WHEREAS, He served in the United States Army from 1967 to 1969; he worked with his father at Wilson Home Improvement Company before becoming a Franklin County deputy in 1974; he served as chief deputy from 1982 to 1990; he was elected sheriff of Franklin County in 1990 and served 5 consecutive terms, making him Franklin County's longest-serving sheriff, until his retirement in November 2010; and

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WHEREAS, He served on several boards over the years, including the Rend Lake College Law Enforcement Advisory Board, the Illinois State Police Crime Laboratory's Advisory Board, the Southern Illinois Criminal Justice Training Board, the Illinois Law Enforcement Training and Standards Board, as past president of Mobile Training Unit 15, and as past president of the Southern Zone Sheriffs' Association; and

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1 WHEREAS, He was elected to the Illinois Sheriffs'
2 Association Executive Board in 1999; he served in all offices
3 and was sworn in as president in 2008; he served on many
4 committees during his tenure, including at Southern Illinois
5 University, Illinois State University, Rend Lake College, and
6 John A. Logan College, to establish student internship programs
7 for law enforcement; he assisted the superintendent of schools
8 to establish a GED program for inmates during incarceration;
9 assisted the Carbondale Women's Center with the Victim Witness
10 Program; and he assisted in a certified training program for
11 telecommunicators in advance of the emergency 911 systems; and

12 WHEREAS, He was instrumental in securing the Franklin
13 County Juvenile Detention Center; he was a member of American
14 Legion Post 280 in Benton, where he had served as a past
15 commander; the Moose Lodge in West Frankfort; the West
16 Frankfort Area Democrats; and St. Mark's Episcopal Church; and

17 WHEREAS, He was an avid St. Louis Cardinals fan and
18 collector of baseball cards and memorabilia; he loved to watch
19 his garden grow, enjoyed fishing and hunting, and during his
20 last 2 years, loved spending his days with his "li'l buddy,"
21 Evan; and

22 WHEREAS, He was preceded in death by his son, Mike; his

1 parents; his father-in-law and mother-in-law, Zeig and
2 Margaret Guminski; and his brothers-in-law, Cliff Cockrum and
3 Jack Steinmetz; and

4 WHEREAS, George Wilson is survived by his wife, Cathy; his
5 daughter, Danalyn, and her husband, Dennis West; his grandsons,
6 Harley and Evan West; his sisters, Sally and her husband, Duane
7 Revis, and Nancy Cockrum; his sister-in-law, Judy Steinmetz;
8 his brother-in-law, Danny and his wife, Reetha Guminski; his
9 nieces and nephews, Tracy Saffelder, Rodney Sailliez, Jason
10 Revis, Michele Odle, Susan Cannon, Stacey Fitch, Danielle
11 Walters, and Josh Guminski; aunts, Maxine Taylor and Lucille
12 Yount; lifelong friend, Ron Vanhorn; and 30-year co-worker,
13 Marsha Pappas, who became a trusted and valued friend and was
14 considered a member of his family; therefore, be it

15 RESOLVED, BY THE SENATE OF THE NINETY-SEVENTH GENERAL
16 ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, that we mourn, along with
17 his family and friends, the passing of George William "Bill"
18 Wilson; and be it further

19 RESOLVED, That a suitable copy of this resolution be
20 presented to the family of George William "Bill" Wilson as an
21 expression of our sympathy.