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SENATE RESOLUTION

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WHEREAS, Senator A.J. Wilhelmi represented the citizens of the State of Illinois and the families of the 43rd Legislative District from January of 2005 until February of 2012; and

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WHEREAS, Arthur "A.J." Wilhelmi, the son of Arthur and Mary Beth Wilhelmi, was born and raised in Joliet; he attended St. Paul the Apostle Elementary School and Joliet Catholic Academy; and

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WHEREAS, Senator A.J. Wilhelmi attended Loyola University of Chicago, graduating cum laude in 1990 with a degree in English and minors in philosophy and political science; he subsequently enrolled in the Chicago-Kent College of Law, graduating in June of 1993 and passing the State Bar Examination in October of that year; and

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WHEREAS, Senator A.J. Wilhelmi began his private career when he joined the McKeown Law Firm, where he specialized in real estate and business law; in April of 2008, he joined Murer Consultants as a senior consultant; he later became a partner in the newly created law firm of Murer, Brick, & Wilhelmi, LLC; and

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WHEREAS, Senator A.J. Wilhelmi's Illinois Senate career

1 has been characterized by a sincere and fervent dedication to
2 service of his community, his State, and the people of his
3 district; and

4 WHEREAS, Senator A.J. Wilhelmi was first appointed to the
5 Illinois Senate from the 43rd Legislative District in January
6 of 2005; he was elected to the position in 2006 and reelected
7 in 2010; and

8 WHEREAS, Senator A.J. Wilhelmi's time in the Illinois
9 Senate has been marked by his strong and effective advocacy for
10 Will County and the communities of the 43rd District, including
11 Bolingbrook, Channahon, Crest Hill, Elwood, Fairmont, Joliet,
12 Lemont, Lockport, Manhattan, Naperville, Preston Heights,
13 Rockdale, Romeoville, and Shorewood; and

14 WHEREAS, Senator A.J. Wilhelmi's primary focus in the
15 Illinois Senate has been improving the lives of the people of
16 Will County by bringing jobs and economic development to his
17 home community; he passed a law that helped create intermodal
18 facilities in Elwood and Joliet, creating thousands of jobs and
19 helping make Will County the largest inland port in North
20 America; he also worked with his colleagues and members of
21 Congress to build a new interchange at Weber Road and
22 Interstate-355, bringing new economic development to Joliet
23 and Will County; and

1 WHEREAS, Senator A.J. Wilhelmi's career in the Illinois
2 Senate has been highlighted by his strong commitment to
3 veterans, a commitment he displayed by twice sponsoring
4 legislation to limit disruptive and inflammatory protests
5 during funerals for veterans and all others; and

6 WHEREAS, Senator A.J. Wilhelmi demonstrated his commitment
7 to improving the lives of all Illinois residents by serving as
8 the chief Senate sponsor of the law allowing adult adoptees to
9 receive copies of their original birth certificates, giving
10 them access to their own history and helping them learn who
11 they are, where they came from, and their family's medical
12 history; and

13 WHEREAS, Senator A.J. Wilhelmi has served as a member on a
14 variety of different Senate Committees, including the Senate
15 Committees on Appropriations, Criminal Law, Education,
16 Environment, Gaming, Housing and Community Affairs, Judiciary
17 - Civil Law, Judiciary, Local Government, and Transportation;
18 he also served as Chairman of the Senate Judiciary Committee
19 during the 96th and 97th General Assemblies, Chairman of the
20 Senate Judiciary - Criminal Law Committee during the 95th
21 General Assembly, and Vice-Chairman of the Senate Agriculture
22 and Conservation Committee during the 94th, 96th, and 97th
23 General Assemblies; and

1 WHEREAS, Senator A.J. Wilhelmi has been active in a variety
2 of community organizations; he co-sponsored the building of the
3 13th Will County Habitat for Humanity home; he served as
4 chairman of the board for the Joliet Region Chamber of Commerce
5 in 2003 after serving in a variety of other posts for the
6 organization; he also served as chairman of the Diplomats
7 Committee for the Will County Center for Economic Development,
8 chairman of the Collins Street Task Force, member of the Will
9 County Center for Community Concerns Board of Directors, and
10 board member of the Joliet Grade Schools Foundation for
11 Educational Excellence; he has also been active with his alma
12 mater, serving as president of the Joliet Catholic Academy
13 Alumni Board from 1999 to 2001; and

14 WHEREAS, Senator A.J. Wilhelmi has been the recipient of
15 numerous awards in recognition of his strong leadership on
16 issues important to his district and the State of Illinois,
17 including the Agriculture Certified Legislator Award from the
18 Illinois Farm Bureau, the Legislator Hero Award from
19 IllinoisVictims.org, the Friend of Agriculture Award from the
20 Illinois Farm Bureau, the Illinois Pork Producers Legislative
21 Award, the Outstanding Legislator of the Year Award from the
22 Illinois Association of Park Districts, and the Legislator of
23 the Year Award from the Illinois Association of Fire Protection
24 Districts; and

1 WHEREAS, Senator A.J. Wilhelmi is also recognized as a
2 strong family man; he and his wife, Michelle, are raising their
3 3 daughters, Maycen, Laine, and Marin, in their home in Joliet;
4 and

5 WHEREAS, Senator A.J. Wilhelmi will be dearly missed by his
6 colleagues and all with whom he has worked for his dedication,
7 professionalism, passion, humor, and willingness to find
8 common sense approaches to governing; therefore, be it

9 RESOLVED, BY THE SENATE OF THE NINETY-SEVENTH GENERAL
10 ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, that we thank Senator Arthur
11 "A.J." Wilhelmi for his years of service to the people of the
12 43rd Legislative District and the people of the State of
13 Illinois and honor him with this resolution, extending to him
14 and his family our very best wishes for a long and happy
15 future; and be it further

16 RESOLVED, That a suitable copy of this resolution be
17 presented to Senator A.J. Wilhelmi as a symbol of our gratitude
18 and esteem.