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SENATE RESOLUTION

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WHEREAS, The members of the Illinois Senate are deeply
3 saddened to learn of the death of James M. Bailey Sr. of Alton,
4 who died on August 10, 2012; and

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WHEREAS, James Bailey Sr. was born on May 5, 1915, in
6 Trenton, Gibson County, Tennessee, to James A. and Rachel
7 Ophelia (Midgett) Bailey; he married Mary Louise Simmons on
8 October 30, 1938, in Marshall, Missouri; they were married for
9 73 years and had 2 sons, Dr. James "Jimmy Joe" M. Bailey Jr.
10 and Judge Duane L. Bailey; and

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WHEREAS, James Bailey Sr. graduated from Vashon High School
12 in St. Louis in June 1935 and was later inducted into their
13 hall of fame; he graduated from Lincoln University in Jefferson
14 City, Missouri in 1939, with a bachelor of science degree in
15 education; he was the first person to pledge the Eta Sigma
16 Chapter of Omega Psi Phi Fraternity at Lincoln University and
17 was later inducted into their hall of fame and received their
18 Distinguished Alumni Award; he received a masters of science
19 degree from the University of Illinois in Urbana-Champaign in
20 1948; and

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WHEREAS, James Bailey Sr. began his career in education as
22 a teacher and coach at Garfield High School in Mexico,

1 Missouri; he served the Alton school district for 3 years as a
2 teacher, coach, junior high school assistant principal, junior
3 high school principal, and administrative supervising
4 principal of elementary schools; he served 10 years with the
5 district as the assistant principal of Alton High School and
6 assistant to the superintendent of schools; and

7 WHEREAS, In 2006, the library at the new Alton High School
8 was named the James M. Bailey Library; he was elected to the
9 city council as the first African-American alderman for the
10 city of Alton, which he served for 10 years; he was appointed
11 as Alton's first African-American comptroller, in which
12 capacity he served for 6 years; and

13 WHEREAS, James Bailey Sr. was active in many organizations
14 throughout his lifetime; he was co-founder of the Elijah P.
15 Lovejoy Memorial, organizer and first chairman of the board of
16 the Madison County Equal Economic Opportunity Commission,
17 organizer for the Madison County Headstart Program, and board
18 member and chairman for the Hayner Public Library Board; he was
19 a member of the Alton-Wood River chapter of the American Red
20 Cross, the St. Louis Metro-East Higher Education Coordinating
21 Council Advisory Committee, East-West Gateway Advisory
22 Committee, the ad hoc committee to promote legislation to
23 establish Southern Illinois University-Edwardsville, the ad
24 hoc committee to organize and promote the referendum to

1 establish Lewis and Clark Community College-Godfrey; he was a
2 past chairman of the Selective Service Board of Appeals of
3 Southern Illinois and past member of St. Joseph's Hospital
4 Advisory Committee; and

5 WHEREAS, James Bailey Sr. was a charter member of the Unity
6 Fellowship Church and was a former member of Allen Chapel AME
7 Church, where he served as a trustee and treasurer; he received
8 many awards for his community service, including the Alton
9 Human Relations Award, Brotherhood Award, Alton Community
10 Citizens Award, Lovejoy Human Rights Award, NAACP's
11 Outstanding Citizen Award, Madison County Urban League Award,
12 100 Black Men Award, Illinois Association Club Women, Inc. "Man
13 of the Year" Award, and the Kimmel Leadership Award; and

14 WHEREAS, James Bailey Sr. was preceded in death by his
15 parents, James A. and Rachel Ophelia Bailey; his brothers,
16 Raymond, Gilbert, and Robert Bailey; and his sisters, Gladys
17 Ellis, Claris Burnett, and Claudine Lewis; and

18 WHEREAS, James Bailey Sr. is survived by his wife, Mary
19 Louise; his sons, Dr. James (Michelle) Bailey and Judge Duane
20 L. (Lois M. Holmes) Bailey; his granddaughters, Tori R. Bailey,
21 Laruen T. Bailey, and Carmen L. Bailey; his grandson, James M.
22 Bailey III; his great-granddaughters, Sacha N. Brown and Elona
23 M. Williams; his brother and sisters-in-law, Jasper Simmons,

1 Richard (Sallie) Simmons, and Martha A. Green; and a host of
2 cousins, nieces, nephews, friends, and a special niece, Nancy
3 Clark; therefore, be it

4 RESOLVED, BY THE SENATE OF THE NINETY-SEVENTH GENERAL
5 ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, that we mourn the passing of
6 James Bailey Sr., and we extend our sincere condolences to his
7 family, friends, and all who knew and loved him; and be it
8 further

9 RESOLVED, That a suitable copy of this resolution be
10 presented to the family of James Bailey Sr. as an expression of
11 our deepest sympathy.