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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 Gary Hembrough of Champaign,  
4 who passed away on October 9, 2012; and

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WHEREAS, Gary Hembrough was born on July 29, 1939, in  
6 Roodhouse to Kenneth L. and Martha Ann Vinyard Hembrough; he  
7 graduated from Roodhouse High school, where he lettered all 4  
8 years in football, basketball, and track; he was offered full  
9 scholarships in football and vocal music to the University of  
10 Illinois, where he played football from 1957-1962, played in  
11 the 1962 Rose Bowl, and later coached freshmen football; he was  
12 president of Tau Kappa Epsilon fraternity; he married Georgine  
13 Ann Tortorella on July 20, 1974, in Lincolnwood; and

14

WHEREAS, Gary Hembrough took his first teaching and  
15 coaching positions at Jefferson Junior High School; he moved on  
16 to Centennial High School to teach and coach and was the  
17 school's head football coach for 11 years; he coached  
18 Centennial to its first playoff berth in 1984; he retired from  
19 Unit 4 schools in 1994; and

20

WHEREAS, Upon retirement, Gary Hembrough started G & H  
21 Computing Services; his interest and talent for cooking evolved  
22 into preparing foods for friends, fans at the University of

1 Illinois football games, and visitors at the Champaign County  
2 Fair; he started Coach's Cooking Team, where he catered  
3 weddings, ball games, gatherings, university events, school  
4 functions, businesses, and private affairs; he attended many  
5 food competitions and was a frequent winner; and

6 WHEREAS, Gary Hembrough's interests were extensive and  
7 varied; he had his Chevrolet van conversion featured in Hot Rod  
8 Magazine; he enjoyed ham radio, downhill skiing, golf, bass  
9 tournaments, photography, the banjo, bluegrass music, and  
10 magic tricks; he encouraged his students to excel in their  
11 passions and become lifelong learners; he was respected as a  
12 coach, teacher, leader, and a person; and

13 WHEREAS, Gary Hembrough was preceded in death by his  
14 parents, Kenneth L. and Martha Ann Vinyard Hembrough; and an  
15 infant brother; and

16 WHEREAS, Gary Hembrough is survived by his wife, Georgine;  
17 his sister, Janet Long; his niece, Missy (Gregg Burrus); his  
18 great-nieces Chloe and Claire; and several cousins; therefore,  
19 be it

20 RESOLVED, BY THE SENATE OF THE NINETY-SEVENTH GENERAL  
21 ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, that we mourn the passing of  
22 Gary Hembrough, and we extend our sincere condolences to his

1 family, friends, and all who knew and loved him; and be it  
2 further

3       RESOLVED, That a suitable copy of this resolution be  
4 presented to the family of Gary Hembrough as an expression of  
5 our deepest sympathy.