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SENATE RESOLUTION

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WHEREAS, The members of the Illinois Senate are saddened to
3 learn of the death of poet, Maya Angelou; and

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WHEREAS, Dr. Maya Angelou is one of the most renowned and
5 influential voices of our time; hailed as a global renaissance
6 woman, she is a celebrated poet, novelist, educator, producer,
7 actress, historian, filmmaker, and civil rights activist; and

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WHEREAS, Dr. Maya Angelou was born on April 4th, 1928 in
9 St. Louis, Missouri and raised in St. Louis and in Stamps,
10 Arkansas; and

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WHEREAS, Dr. Maya Angelou was once hailed as "America's
12 most visible black female autobiographer"; her first and most
13 highly acclaimed work, "I Know Why The Caged Bird Sings"
14 (1969), brought her international recognition and was
15 nominated for a National Book Award; she has been awarded over
16 30 honorary degrees and was nominated for a Pulitzer Prize for
17 her 1971 volume of poetry, "Just Give Me a Cool Drink of Water
18 'Fore I Diiie"; the list of her published verse, non-fiction,
19 and fiction now includes more than 30 bestselling titles; she
20 was a trailblazer in film and television; and

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WHEREAS, Dr. Maya Angelou served on 2 presidential

1 committees - one for President Gerald Ford in 1975 and one for
2 President Jimmy Carter in 1977; President Bill Clinton
3 requested that she compose a poem to read at his inauguration
4 in 1993 and her reading of her poem "On the Pulse of the
5 Morning" was broadcast live around the world; in 2000, she was
6 awarded the National Medal of Arts by President Clinton; she
7 received the Lincoln Medal in 2008 under President George W.
8 Bush and has received 3 Grammy Awards; in 2010, she was awarded
9 the Presidential Medal of Freedom, the highest civilian honor
10 in the U.S., by President Barack Obama; and

11 WHEREAS, Dr. Maya Angelou's words and actions will forever
12 live in our souls, energize our bodies, liberate our minds, and
13 heal our hearts; therefore, be it

14 RESOLVED, BY THE SENATE OF THE NINETY-EIGHTH GENERAL
15 ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, that we mourn the passing of
16 poet, Maya Angelou, and extend our sincere condolences to her
17 family, friends, and all who knew and loved her; and be it
18 further

19 RESOLVED, That a suitable copy of this resolution be
20 presented to the family of Dr. Maya Angelou as an expression of
21 our deepest sympathy.