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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 John Smith Clayborne, Jr. of East St. Louis, who passed away on April 2, 2016; and

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WHEREAS, John Clayborne, Jr. was born in St. Louis, Missouri to Ophelia Ruth (Vaughn) and John Smith Clayborne, Sr. on March 30, 1952; he graduated from East St. Louis Senior High School on June 4, 1970 and attended State Community College in the 1970s; during his youth, he was a karate enthusiast and transformed the entire family basement into a gym, teaching young men in the community the basics of karate; and

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WHEREAS, John Clayborne, Jr. worked as a forklift operator at Granite City Steel, retiring after 25 years of service; and

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WHEREAS, John Clayborne, Jr. was artistic and loved working with his hands; he opened Wolf Graphics, where he acted as art director; he designed and developed wood and window signs, banners, and painted landscapes and portraits on canvas; he loved reading about ancient history and how-to books and had more math books and materials than would be found in a high school library; and

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WHEREAS, John Clayborne, Jr. was preceded in death by his

1 father and his two sisters, Ruth Ann Clayborne Denny and Betty  
2 Mawiyah Clayborne; and

3 WHEREAS, John Clayborne, Jr. is survived by his mother,  
4 Ophelia Clayborne; his sisters, Sylvia Clayborne and Joann  
5 Clayborne; his nephew, Parker Denny; his niece, MaQyria Harris;  
6 his aunts, Vernice McGough (Benny) and Willie B. Clayborne; his  
7 uncles, Alphonzo Vaughn and Calvin Clayborne; his  
8 brother-in-law, Lowell Denny; his dear friend, Shakita Perry;  
9 and a host of cousins and friends; therefore, be it

10 RESOLVED, BY THE SENATE OF THE NINETY-NINTH GENERAL  
11 ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, that we mourn the passing of  
12 John Smith Clayborne, Jr., and extend our sincere condolences  
13 to his family, friends, and all who knew and loved him; and be  
14 it further

15 RESOLVED, That a suitable copy of this resolution be  
16 presented to the family of John Clayborne, Jr. as an expression  
17 of our deepest sympathy.