

## 1 SENATE RESOLUTION

2 WHEREAS, The members of the Senate wish to express their  
3 sincere condolences to the family and friends of federal  
4 Judge Abraham Lincoln Marovitz, who passed away on March 17,  
5 2001; and

6 WHEREAS, Abraham Lincoln Marovitz was born in Oshkosh,  
7 Wisconsin on August 10, 1905; together with his parents,  
8 Joseph and Rachel, his brothers, Sydney and Harold, and his  
9 sisters, Bess and Jeanette, young Mr. Marovitz moved to  
10 Chicago in 1910; he sold newspapers, delivered groceries and  
11 telegrams, and fought as a club prizefighter at Kid Howard's  
12 Gym to earn money; and

13 WHEREAS, Abraham Lincoln Marovitz attended Jefferson  
14 Elementary and Medill High School and was active in Boys  
15 Brotherhood Republic; and

16 WHEREAS, While boxing in clubs around the city, Abraham  
17 Lincoln Marovitz also worked as an office boy for a law firm;  
18 Alfred Austrian, head of the law firm, called the young man  
19 into his office and asked if it was his intent to make a  
20 career of boxing; Mr. Marovitz replied that it was not, and  
21 was told to go register for night school at the Kent College  
22 of Law, with the law firm paying for the tuition; and

23 WHEREAS, After his graduation in 1925 at the age of 19,  
24 Abraham Lincoln Marovitz had to wait almost two years before  
25 taking the bar exam; he may have been the last sitting  
26 federal judge who never went to college before attending law  
27 school; and

28 WHEREAS, From 1927 to 1932 Mr. Marovitz was an aggressive  
29 assistant State's attorney; after the political climate  
30 changed and he was forced out of the State's attorney's  
31 office, he and his brothers started their own practice; Mr.

1 Marovitz garnered the attention of Alderman Jacob Arvey of  
2 the 24th Ward, moved into the ward and became a Democratic  
3 precinct captain, and was soon on his way to the Illinois  
4 Senate; and

5 WHEREAS, Elected to the Illinois Senate in 1938, Abraham  
6 Lincoln Marovitz was the first Jewish Senator of the State of  
7 Illinois; during his time in the Legislature he negotiated  
8 compromises between Democrats and Republicans, but also stood  
9 by his original goals for legislation; he served in the  
10 Illinois Senate during the 61st through 66th General  
11 Assemblies, leaving the office in 1950; and

12 WHEREAS, In 1943, Senator Marovitz waived senatorial  
13 deferment and enlisted as a private in the United States  
14 Marine Corps, where he was assigned to non-combat duties;  
15 Adlai Stevenson, then special assistant to the secretary of  
16 the Navy, arranged for Mr. Marovitz and his commanding  
17 officer to see combat duty during their time of service; and

18 WHEREAS, In 1950, Richard J. Daley, then Cook County  
19 clerk, swore in Abraham Lincoln Marovitz as a judge of the  
20 Cook County Superior Court; Judge Marovitz in turn swore in  
21 Mr. Daley as the elected county clerk; Judge Marovitz later  
22 swore in Mayor Daley six times to his office with the City of  
23 Chicago, as well as his son, Mayor Richard M. Daley, for his  
24 terms as Mayor; in 1963 President John F. Kennedy named Judge  
25 Marovitz to the federal bench, as a judge in the Northern  
26 Illinois District; and

27 WHEREAS, Judge Marovitz was a collector of Abraham  
28 Lincoln items, including busts, pictures, autographed  
29 letters, children's drawings, and other keepsakes; he also  
30 had friendships with Frank Sinatra, Bob Hope, Hubert  
31 Humphrey, Joe E. Lewis, Jimmy Durante, popes, poets,  
32 senators, and singers, and kept the photos of his friends on

1 his chamber walls; and

2 WHEREAS, After his 70th birthday in 1975, Judge Marovitz  
3 accepted senior status with the federal court; until recently  
4 he went to his chambers in the Dirksen Federal Building on a  
5 daily basis; and

6 WHEREAS, Judge Marovitz received the honor of having  
7 Plymouth Court from Jackson to Van Buren renamed Abraham  
8 Lincoln Marovitz Court; in Israel there is also a forest with  
9 200,000 trees named after him; and

10 WHEREAS, Judge Marovitz is survived by his nieces and  
11 nephews, Adrienne Garman, Sanford Marovitz, James Marovitz,  
12 Robert Marovitz, and former Illinois State Senator William  
13 Marovitz; and

14 WHEREAS, Judge Marovitz was a member of Congregation  
15 Anshe Sholom B'nai Israel and Chicago Loop Synagogue; the  
16 passing of Judge Abraham Lincoln Marovitz will be deeply felt  
17 by the people of the City of Chicago and the State of  
18 Illinois; therefore, be it

19 RESOLVED, BY THE SENATE OF THE NINETY-SECOND GENERAL  
20 ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, that we mourn the death of  
21 Judge Abraham Lincoln Marovitz and extend our sincere  
22 sympathies to his family and friends at this time; and be it  
23 further

24 RESOLVED, That a suitable copy of this resolution be  
25 presented to the family of Judge Abraham Lincoln Marovitz.