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SENATE RESOLUTION

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WHEREAS, The members of the Illinois Senate wish to express their sincere condolences to the family and friends of James W. Thomas, who passed away on February 7, 2002; and

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WHEREAS, James Thomas was born on March 11, 1947 in Bethany, the son of Ward and Mary Davisson Thomas; he married Renae DeAne Robertson on October 4, 1986; and

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WHEREAS, Mr. Thomas served in the United States Army during the Vietnam War; and

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WHEREAS, Mr. Thomas began his career in education in Decatur as an instructor in business education at Stephen Decatur High School from 1972 until 1992; he was dean of students at Stephen Decatur from 1992 until 1994, at which time he became dean of students at MacArthur High School; from 1996 to 1998, he worked as assistant principal at Eisenhower High School; from 1998 to 2000, he served as principal at Stephen Decatur High School, and beginning in 2000, he was principal at Eisenhower High School; altogether, Mr. Thomas served Decatur schools for almost 30 years; and

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WHEREAS, Mr. Thomas served as a member of the North Central Committee Review Team, the Business Education Task Force, the Discipline Action Committee, and the Curriculum Advisory Council; in addition, he supervised and worked with the Block Scheduling Committee, supervised and instructed the Saturday High School program, worked in the Adult Education evening program, was past president of the Decatur Association Building Administrators, served as a member of the Illinois Principals Association, and was president of Phi Delta Kappa, Decatur Chapter; and

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WHEREAS, The passing of James W. Thomas will be deeply felt by all who knew and loved him, especially his wife,

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1 Renae Thomas; his mother, Mary Thomas; his son, James Z.
2 (Crystal) Thomas; his daughter, Tia Werdell; his
3 grandchildren, Zack and Bobby Werdell and Brittany Thomas;
4 his sister Linda (Robert "Bob") Bullock; his sister-in-law,
5 Judi (David) Whalen; his niece, Elizabeth "Beth" Bullock; and
6 his nephew, Robert "Bob" (Sheila) Bullock, Jr.; in addition,
7 he will be missed by countless colleagues, faculty members,
8 staff, and students who had the honor of knowing him during
9 his lengthy career in the Decatur school system; therefore,
10 be it

11 RESOLVED, BY THE SENATE OF THE NINETY-SECOND GENERAL
12 ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, that we mourn, along with
13 all who knew him, the death of James W. Thomas of Decatur;
14 and be it further

15 RESOLVED, That a suitable copy of this resolution be
16 presented to the family of James W. Thomas with our sincere
17 condolences.