

## 1 SENATE RESOLUTION

2 WHEREAS, The members of the Illinois Senate are saddened  
3 to learn of the death of Robert Morgan of Peoria, who passed  
4 away May 29, 2002; and

5 WHEREAS, Robert Morgan was born in Peoria on May 27,  
6 1912, to Harry Dale and Eleanor Ellis Morgan; he married  
7 Betty Louise Harbers on October 14, 1939, in Peoria; and

8 WHEREAS, Robert Morgan was a graduate of Bradley  
9 University and received his doctor of law degree from the  
10 University of Chicago Law School; and

11 WHEREAS, A member of the American Legion, Robert Morgan  
12 was a World War II Army Signal Corps veteran with the rank of  
13 major; and

14 WHEREAS, Robert Morgan became Peoria's 36th mayor in 1953  
15 and was the first to govern under the city's newly adopted  
16 council-city manager form of government; Peoria, at the time,  
17 was known as a city of ill-repute, full of gambling and  
18 prostitution; Mr. Morgan campaigned on a pledge to oust those  
19 elements, and under his administration, police began rigidly  
20 enforcing laws against prostitution and gambling; his  
21 anti-crime efforts nearly cost him his life, as two attempts  
22 were made to dynamite his home and he received several death  
23 threats over the phone; and

24 WHEREAS, Under Robert Morgan's administration, Peoria was  
25 named by Look magazine as one of the nation's 11 All-America  
26 cities; for this and getting the city out of debt, Mr. Morgan  
27 received the Good Government Award in 1954 for the remarkable  
28 job he was doing; and

29 WHEREAS, Robert Morgan did not run for a second term in  
30 1957, and opted to pursue his career in law; described as  
31 fearless and a stickler for the law, his reputation was so

1     impeccable that he was nominated by President Johnson to the  
2     federal bench; Robert Morgan was a federal judge for 35 years  
3     and held senior judge status since May 28, 1982; and

4             WHEREAS, Robert Morgan served on Bradley's board of  
5     trustees from 1957 to 2002 and had served on the Wildlife  
6     Prairie Park Board of Trustees; he was past president of the  
7     Rotary Club and the YMCA, where he had served on the board;  
8     Robert Morgan had also served on the United Fund Board and  
9     the Salvation Army Peoria Advisory Board; and

10            WHEREAS, Robert Morgan was a member of the American,  
11     Illinois State, and Peoria County bar associations, the  
12     American Judicature Society, the Illinois State Chamber of  
13     Commerce, and the Peoria Association of Commerce; he was a  
14     member of Westminster Presbyterian Church from 1947 to 1952;  
15     and

16            WHEREAS, Robert Morgan was named Citizen of the Year in  
17     1957 by B'nai B'rith; and

18            WHEREAS, Robert Morgan will be deeply missed by all those  
19     who knew him and loved him, especially his wife, Betty; his  
20     two sons, Thomas and James; his five grandchildren; and his  
21     five great-grandchildren; therefore, be it

22            RESOLVED, BY THE SENATE OF THE NINETY-SECOND GENERAL  
23     ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, that we mourn, along with  
24     all those who knew him and loved him, the death of Robert  
25     Morgan; and be it further

26            RESOLVED, That a suitable copy of this resolution be  
27     presented to Robert Morgan with our most sincere condolences.