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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 Ruth Stamm Dear of Oak Park, who peacefully passed away March 31, 2017, at the age of 103; and

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WHEREAS, Ruth Stamm Dear was born in New York City to immigrants Anna and Simon Stamm on January 16, 1914; she attended Hunter College, where she majored in languages and was active in radical student movements and causes; it was during this time that she met her kindred spirit, George Dear, who was a Princeton University student; they moved to Chicago in 1937 and married in 1938; and

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WHEREAS, Ruth Stamm Dear soon became a Gandhi pacifist, advocating for peace by participating in one-day strikes based on the Oxford Peace Pledge, while George worked for U. S. Steel's South Works plant and became a leader in the Steelworkers Union Local; and

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WHEREAS, Ruth Stamm Dear's civil rights activism began in the 1940s in Hyde Park; during this time, she also opposed World War II and was one of a small group who protested every Sunday at Chicago's Washington Park Open Forum in a court-ordered free speech area; and

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1 WHEREAS, Ruth Stamm Dear was active during the mid-1950s in
2 the cooperative camp of Circle Pines Center in Michigan, which
3 promoted peace, social justice, environmental stewardship, and
4 cooperation; and

5 WHEREAS, Ruth Stamm Dear was committed to the Congress of
6 Racial Equality (CORE), Women Strike for Peace, Women for
7 Peace, and the Women's International League for Peace and
8 Freedom; and

9 WHEREAS, Ruth Stamm Dear traveled to the Soviet Union in
10 1963 for an international peace meeting with North Vietnamese
11 women; as the war in Vietnam escalated, she joined the Chicago
12 Area Draft Resisters (CADRE); and

13 WHEREAS, Ruth Stamm Dear moved to Oak Park in 1974, where
14 she joined the newly formed Oak Park chapter of the War
15 Resisters League; she helped organize the Metro West Peace
16 Center, along with the annual Hiroshima Day Observance in Oak
17 Park's Scoville Park; and

18 WHEREAS, Ruth Stamm Dear was jailed at the age of 73 for
19 her protest of militarism and nuclear proliferation at the
20 Arlington Heights military base in August of 1987; and

21 WHEREAS, Ruth Stamm Dear participated in the Chicago Pledge

1 of Resistance which opposed U.S. intervention in Central
2 America; she worked for women's and older people's liberation
3 with Women Mobilized for Change, Citizens for a Democratic
4 Society, and the Gray Panthers; and

5 WHEREAS, Ruth Stamm Dear had a weekly radio program for the
6 Gray Panthers, while covering other topics of interest, such as
7 women's health and abortion rights; and

8 WHEREAS, Ruth Stamm Dear also published numerous articles
9 in the Nonviolent Activist of the War Resisters League, WIN
10 Magazine, and Hyde Park Kenwood Voices; her journals,
11 publications, and letters are collected at the Gannon Center,
12 Loyola University Chicago; and

13 WHEREAS, Ruth Stamm Dear's political memoir, "You Can't Not
14 Do It: The Journal of an Older Activist" was published in 2001;
15 and

16 WHEREAS, Ruth Stamm Dear's life's work was being engaged in
17 political movements for economic and social justice; she
18 challenged racism, anti-Semitism, homophobia, gender, and age
19 oppression; she protested, demonstrated, and practiced civil
20 disobedience for the public good; and

21 WHEREAS, Ruth Stamm Dear was preceded in death by her

1 husband, George Dear; her parents; her brother; and other
2 relatives; and

3 WHEREAS, Ruth Stamm Dear is survived by her niece, Karen
4 Stamm and many other family members and friends; therefore, be
5 it

6 RESOLVED, BY THE SENATE OF THE ONE HUNDREDTH GENERAL
7 ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, that we mourn the passing of
8 Ruth Stamm Dear, and extend our sincere condolences to her
9 family, friends, and all who knew and loved her; and be it
10 further

11 RESOLVED, That a suitable copy of this resolution be
12 presented to the family of Ruth Stamm Dear as an expression of
13 our deepest sympathy.