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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 Shirley Mae Rauschenberger of Elgin, who passed away on December 15, 2014; and

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WHEREAS, Shirley Rauschenberger was born in Elgin on December 1, 1926 to Felix and Amanda Idstein Westerbeck; she graduated from Elgin High School during World War II and married John K. Rauschenberger in 1946; and

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WHEREAS, Shirley Rauschenberger's first job was with the Chicago Daily News as a "copy girl"; she was a firm believer in volunteering for her community; she served on the boards of the YWCA, the YMCA, Episcopal Churchwomen, the Boy Scouts of America, the Girl Scouts-Sybaquay Council, the Salvation Army, and the Elgin Area Chamber of Commerce; she was one of the founders of the Open Door Clinic; she was elected to the District U-46 School Board, where she served for 12 years; she was a strong supporter of the family business, Rauschenberger Furniture; she was also a foster parent, scout leader, precinct committeewoman, and Kane County election judge; and

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WHEREAS, Shirley Rauschenberger received numerous recognitions over the years, including the Cosmopolitan Distinguished Service Award, the Altrusa Woman of the Year

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1 Award, and as the State Office of Public Instruction
2 Outstanding Parent of the Region, and, in 2008, she was honored
3 by the Elgin Township Republicans for her leadership and
4 longstanding political activism; and

5 WHEREAS, Shirley Rauschenberger returned to work after
6 raising her children, working for Chuck Hines Store for Men,
7 Spiess Department Store, and Ackemann's Furniture Store; she
8 then returned to the newspaper field and became one of the
9 first editors of the Elgin Free Press (now Elgin Herald); after
10 retiring, she was active in her son Steve's campaigns for State
11 Senate; and

12 WHEREAS, Shirley Rauschenberger enjoyed cooking,
13 entertaining, hospitality, and following her family's
14 activities; and

15 WHEREAS, Shirley Rauschenberger was preceded in death by
16 her parents; her husband, John; and her brother, Sheldon
17 Westerbeck; and

18 WHEREAS, Shirley Rauschenberger is survived by her 2
19 daughters, Laurel Kracen (Don Getts) and Carol Rauschenberger
20 (Reid Travis); her 4 sons, John K. Rauschenberger, Jr., Thomas
21 Rauschenberger, former State Sen. Steven Rauschenberger
22 (Betty), and Keith Rauschenberger (Cindy); her 13

1 grandchildren, Amanda Kracen, Elizabeth Kracen, Melissa
2 Rauschenberger, John Rauschenberger III, Emilee
3 Rauschenberger, Joe Rauschenberger, Zoe Travis, Bopha Travis,
4 Sam Rauschenberger, Michael Rauschenberger, Henry
5 Rauschenberger, Kacy Rauschenberger, and Karl Rauschenberger;
6 her 12 great-grandchildren; and her extended family members,
7 Scott Kracen and Dawn Marcom; therefore, be it

8 RESOLVED, BY THE SENATE OF THE NINETY-EIGHTH GENERAL
9 ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, that we mourn the passing of
10 Shirley Mae Rauschenberger, and extend our sincere condolences
11 to her family, friends, and all who knew and loved her; and be
12 it further

13 RESOLVED, That a suitable copy of this resolution be
14 presented to the family of Shirley Rauschenberger as an
15 expression of our deepest sympathy.