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LRB104 21144 ECR 35469 r

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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 Elaine Evelyn Birtch, who passed away on February 15, 2026; and

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WHEREAS, Elaine Birtch was born to Hugo W. Gade and Evelyn Jagow Gade in Niagara Falls, New York on April 6, 1932; she and her family moved to La Porte, Indiana in 1947; she graduated from La Porte High School in 1949 and from Concordia Teachers College in 1953; she married Dr. Alan G. Birtch at St. John's Lutheran Church in La Porte, Indiana on August 22, 1954, and the couple lived in Baltimore, Maryland and Boston, Massachusetts before moving to Springfield; and

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WHEREAS, Elaine Birtch taught at Lutheran schools in Winston-Salem, Baltimore and in the Brookline, Massachusetts public school system; and

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WHEREAS, Elaine Birtch served as a Stephen Minister and was a member of St. John's Lutheran Church; she was also a member of the Anti-Rust Club, PEO, Questers, and Bible study; and

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WHEREAS, Elaine Birtch's love of the arts and her Lutheran heritage were evident in her involvement in writing grants for

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1 visiting artists at Lutheran schools, helping create the Fine  
2 Arts Fair and Liturgical Art Fair for the Art Association, and  
3 hosting, writing, and interviewing local and renowned artists  
4 for a local television show called Art Beat; and

5 WHEREAS, Elaine loved traveling with her husband and  
6 family; and

7 WHEREAS, Elaine Birtch was preceded in death by her  
8 husband, Alan; and

9 WHEREAS, Elaine Birtch is survived by her children, Grant  
10 (Susan) Birtch, Eric (Joanne) Birtch, Mark (Susan) Birtch, and  
11 Jane (Oleg) Vatchev; ten grandchildren; two  
12 great-grandchildren; her sister-in-law, Mary Gade; three  
13 nephews; her aunt, Marilyn Winter; her friend and neighbor,  
14 Nancy Segatto; and her friend and caretaker, Gayla Cheffey;  
15 therefore, be it

16 RESOLVED, BY THE SENATE OF THE ONE HUNDRED FOURTH GENERAL  
17 ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, that we mourn the passing of  
18 Elaine Evelyn Birtch and extend our sincere condolences to her  
19 family, friends, and all who knew and loved her; and be it  
20 further

21 RESOLVED, That a suitable copy of this resolution be

1 presented to the family of Elaine Birtch as an expression of  
2 our deepest sympathy.