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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 Susan Loving Gravenhorst, who passed away on September 15, 2019; and

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WHEREAS, Susan Gravenhorst was born in Effingham to Harold and Julia (Highsmith) Loving on October 1, 1931; she skipped the third grade and graduated from Effingham High School as class valedictorian at the age of 16; she graduated from Stephens College for Women in Columbia, Missouri in 1950 and received her Bachelor of Arts in English with a credential in secondary school teaching and a minor in speech from the University of Illinois in 1952; and

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WHEREAS, Susan Gravenhorst married Albert D. "Alby" Gravenhorst on Valentine's Day 1953, and they moved around the country, as Albert pursued a career in advertising while Susan taught English, journalism, and speech in junior high and high schools in Atlanta, Des Moines, Birmingham (MI), Cleveland, Dallas, and finally Lake Forest; in the 1960s, she and her husband founded Gravenhorst & Associates, Incorporated in Chicago, where she served as chief financial officer and treasurer for over 35 years; and

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WHEREAS, While living in Lake Forest, Susan Gravenhorst

1 became involved with many community organizations, including
2 the Cherokee School PTA (President), the Lake Forest PTA
3 (President), the Lake Forest High School Volunteer Board
4 (President), the Lake Forest Symphony Associations' Women's
5 Committee, the Lake Bluff/Lake Forest Committee of the Arden
6 Shore Association, the Lake Forest Hospital Women's Board, PEO
7 KV Chapter (President), Faith Lutheran Church's Mary and Martha
8 Guild (President), and the Friends of Gorton Community Center
9 Board; and

10 WHEREAS, Susan Gravenhorst became active in local
11 politics, first serving as the president of the Women's
12 Republican Club of Lake Forest; she served on the Lake Forest
13 Caucus for eight years and as the State Central Republican
14 Committeewoman for the Illinois 10th Congressional District
15 from 1982 to 1998; she was also a member of the Lake County
16 Republican Federation Board of Governors from 1968 to 1984; and

17 WHEREAS, In 1984, Susan Gravenhorst was elected to the
18 University of Illinois Board of Trustees; she was re-elected in
19 1990 and, after the board shifted from elective to appointive,
20 was appointed to a third term by Governor Jim Edgar in 1996; in
21 1998, she was elected chairman of the board and, consequently,
22 her signature is on the diplomas of thousands of students who
23 graduated during the 1998 to 2000 timeframe; she chaired most
24 of the committees of the board and was the first woman to chair

1 the committee on athletics; she also served as a board member
2 of the University of Illinois Foundation and its President's
3 Council and the State Universities Civil Service Merit Board;
4 and

5 WHEREAS, In 1999 at its annual convention in Seattle, the
6 Association of Governing Boards of Universities and Colleges
7 honored Susan Gravenhorst with its Distinguished Service Award
8 in Trusteeship for the "best volunteer service to public higher
9 education"; and

10 WHEREAS, In 2002, after retiring from the University of
11 Illinois Board of Trustees, she was elected Lake County
12 Commissioner and served Lake Forest/Lake Bluff for eight years,
13 retiring in 2012 at age 80; and

14 WHEREAS, Susan Gravenhorst was a member of the Knollwood
15 Club, the Delta Gamma Sorority, and PEO; and

16 WHEREAS, Susan Gravenhorst was preceded in death by her
17 husband, Alby; and

18 WHEREAS, Susan Gravenhorst is survived by her son, Hugo
19 (Terese) Gravenhorst; her daughters, Suzanne Gravenhorst and
20 Jane (Lars) Soderberg; and her grandchildren, Abigail (Ian)
21 Strug, Eleanor Gravenhorst, Lars A. Soderberg, Anders

1 Soderberg, and Bradley Soderberg; therefore, be it

2 RESOLVED, BY THE SENATE OF THE ONE HUNDRED FIRST GENERAL
3 ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, that we mourn the passing of
4 Susan Loving Gravenhorst and extend our sincere condolences to
5 her family, friends, and all who knew and loved her; and be it
6 further

7 RESOLVED, That a suitable copy of this resolution be
8 presented to the family of Susan Gravenhorst as an expression
9 of our deepest sympathy.