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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 Evelyn Alexander of North Chicago, who passed away on May 14, 2021; and

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WHEREAS, Evelyn Alexander was born to Milton P. Harrison and Bessie Mae Harrison in Evanston on November 1, 1936; she was educated in the Evanston public school system; she graduated with honors from Evanston Township High School in 1954; she married Benjamin F. Alexander Jr. in 1956; and

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WHEREAS, When Evelyn Alexander's children were young, she accepted a position as a dispatcher with the North Chicago Police Department; she was quickly promoted to Health Commissioner and Emergency Services Disaster Agency Coordinator by the late Mayor Leo F. Kukla; she retired as Chief of Staff to Mayor Bobby E. Thompson in 1997 after 27 years of service; soon after her retirement, she joined the office of her long-time friend, State Senator Terry Link; she served as Senator Link's Legislative Aide for 14 years before retiring again in 2011; at the start of her career, she was employed at what was then known as the Downey Veterans' Administration; and

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WHEREAS, Evelyn Alexander volunteered with and held

1 leadership positions in numerous organizations; she was a past
2 president of the North Chicago Rotary Club, past vice
3 president of Partners in Progress, and a founding member of
4 the Solid Waste Agency of Lake County; she also served as
5 Chairman of the University of Illinois Cooperative Extension
6 Council; she was the driving force behind the "First Tee" of
7 Lake County program, which brought golf to young people in
8 North Chicago and throughout the county, and was very active
9 with Big Brother/Big Sisters; her longest volunteer service
10 was as a member of the College of Lake County Lakeshore Campus
11 Advisory Board where she served for more than 35 years; she was
12 a member of the North Chicago Housing Authority, which was one
13 of her favorite appointments, and was also very active with
14 Eureka Temple #1172; and

15 WHEREAS, Evelyn Alexander was a champion for children in
16 North Chicago; while her children were in school, she often
17 volunteered as a chaperone for field trips and sports events;
18 she invested more than 60 years of her time to ensure that
19 children in North Chicago were afforded an opportunity to
20 receive an excellent education; and

21 WHEREAS, Evelyn Alexander is the only resident to be
22 appointed and/or elected to every school board district in the
23 history of the City of North Chicago; she never lost a school
24 board election while serving on Grade School District 63,

1 Grade School Districts 64, High School District 123, and North
2 Chicago Community Unit District 187; on June 19, 2012, the
3 State Board of Education appointed Evelyn as a member of the
4 Independent Authority for North Chicago Unit School District
5 187; and

6 WHEREAS, As a result of Evelyn Alexander's commitment to
7 education and her longevity as a volunteer, North Elementary
8 School was renamed Evelyn Alexander Elementary School in her
9 honor; and

10 WHEREAS, Evelyn Alexander attended First Corinthian
11 Missionary Baptist church for several years before she
12 officially became a member in 1968; she enjoyed supporting and
13 partaking in church events, especially the grand teas
14 sponsored by the Mission Ministry; one of her proudest moments
15 of service was serving on the Pastor's Search Committee; and

16 WHEREAS, Evelyn Alexander has received numerous awards and
17 accolades throughout the years; she has been selected as an
18 Outstanding School Board Member, a State of Illinois
19 Outstanding ESDA Director, the First Corinthian Missionary
20 Baptist Church Senior of the Year, and the U of I Mother of the
21 year; she has also received several citations from federal,
22 state, and local entities, including the YWCA Women of
23 Achievement Award for Public Service, the Lake County Forest

1 Preserve "Doing Good in the Hood" award, and the People's
2 Voice Lifetime Achievement Award, and was inducted into the
3 City of North Chicago Hall of Fame; and

4 WHEREAS, Evelyn Alexander was preceded in death by her
5 parents; her sisters, Juanita Wimberly, Vera Mae Spears, and
6 Barbara Jean Harrison; and her niece, Evelyn Wimberly; and

7 WHEREAS, Evelyn Alexander is survived by her four
8 children, Cynthia (Michael) Jackson, Cheryl Alexander,
9 Christina (David) Jones, and Benjamin Alexander III; her eight
10 grandchildren, Brittany Alexander, Benjamin Alexander IV,
11 Sheraton Jones, Avery Jones, Michael (Tristy) Jackson,
12 Jonathan Jackson, Trenisa Jackson, and Nicole Wimberly; her
13 nine great-grandchildren; her brother, Milton Harrison; her
14 sister-in-law, Hellen Russell; her cousins; her host of nieces
15 and nephews; and her friends, including her special friends,
16 Velma Dicker, Judy Keener, and Dora King; therefore, be it

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

22 RESOLVED, That a suitable copy of this resolution be

1 presented to the family of Evelyn Alexander as an expression
2 of our deepest sympathy.