



1 SENATE RESOLUTION

2 WHEREAS, The members of the Senate of the State of Illinois
3 were saddened to learn of the passing of Elsie Lunde Jacobsen,
4 on November 21, 2003; and

5 WHEREAS, Elsie Jacobsen was the youngest of five children
6 born to Marianne Larsen and Diedrich Lunde of Larvik, Norway;
7 she was a 1936 Phi Beta Kappa graduate of the University of
8 Wisconsin, where she also started her master's study at age 83;
9 and

10 WHEREAS, In 1946, after being married for eight years and
11 having two children in school, Mrs. Jacobsen was encouraged by
12 her husband to 'start doing something' from which time she
13 never looked back; and

14 WHEREAS, Elsie Jacobsen was very active in the Oak Park
15 Community during the last six decades, helping to turn Oak Park
16 into the vibrant, interesting village it is today; she worked
17 with the League of Women Voters in leading the local effort to
18 support the formation of a new international organization,
19 called the United Nations; through her work with UNICEF she
20 meet Eleanor Roosevelt and Adlai Stevenson, her hero; and

21 WHEREAS, Mrs. Jacobsen was elected to the Oak Park/River
22 Forest High School board in 1957, just in time for Sputnik to
23 race across the atmosphere; she eventually became the board's
24 first female president; she was appointed Chair of the Village
25 Beautification Commission in 1968, which developed the concept
26 of the block party to improve neighborhood relations during the
27 tense early years of integration; and

28 WHEREAS, Mrs. Jacobsen founded the Historical Society of
29 Oak Park and River Forest after locating a cache of historic
30 photos by Philander Barclay in an Oak Park basement and created

1 a slide show, Then and Now, which she took to schools and
2 organizational functions to educate Oak Parkers about their
3 heritage; in the early 1970s, she helped lead the effort to
4 save the Oak Park Conservatory from the wrecking ball; and

5 WHEREAS, Mrs. Jacobsen was one of the originators of the
6 Wright Plus house-walk, which evolved out of the celebration of
7 Frank Lloyd Wright's birth; she was integral in the effort to
8 save the Frank Lloyd Wright Home & Studio, during which time
9 she established a close relationship with the famous
10 architect's son, Lloyd Wright; and

11 WHEREAS, Mrs. Jacobsen was one of the organizers of the
12 local Bicentennial celebration in 1976, and the Village's 75th
13 anniversary in 1977; she was one of the organizers and a
14 long-time supporter of the Ernest Hemingway Foundation, with
15 whom she traveled to Cuba at the age of 86; and

16 WHEREAS, Mrs. Jacobsen's involvement was felt across the
17 world, having started the Oak Park Council on International
18 Affairs' School to School program, which has raised funds to
19 build 275 schools or school additions in third world countries;
20 she was especially proud of her favorite project and inspired
21 the national School to School program, a Peace Corps
22 partnership, after proposing it to Sergeant Shriver shortly
23 after President Kennedy started the Peace Corps; and

24 WHEREAS, Mrs. Jacobsen was preceded in death by her
25 parents, Marianne and Diedrich Lunde; her brothers, Diedrich,
26 Einar, and Walter; her sister Ruth Winney; and her husband,
27 Earl Grant Jacobsen; and

28 WHEREAS, Elsie Jacobsen's passing was deeply felt by many
29 in Oak Park and across the world, especially by her sons, Erik
30 and Evan; her daughter, Dr. Ellen Jacobsen-Isserman; her four
31 grandsons; and her many friends; therefore be it

1 RESOLVED, BY THE SENATE OF THE NINETY-THIRD GENERAL
2 ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, that we mourn the death of
3 Elsie Jacobsen; and be it further

4 RESOLVED, That a suitable copy of this resolution be
5 presented to the family of Elsie Jacobsen as an expression of
6 our sorrow for their loss.