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SENATE RESOLUTION

WHEREAS, The members of the Senate of the State of Illinois learned with sadness of the death of Barbara Mead Blumenschein of Downers Grove on April 3, 2005; and

WHEREAS, Mrs. Blumenschein was born and raised in Boardman, Ohio; she graduated with honors and earned a bachelor of science degree in English with a minor in Spanish in 1970 from Ohio State University; and

WHEREAS, She taught high school English briefly in Youngstown before she married her husband, Robert, in 1971; the family moved to Cleveland, then to Westmont; during that time, she taught at Eisenhower Junior High School in Darien; the family then moved to Houston and, in 1981, settled in Downers Grove; and

WHEREAS, An English teacher at Herrick Middle School in Downers Grove, she initially returned to teaching to help pay for her children's college educations, but it became a vocation rather than a mere job; while she taught, she took part-time courses at Northern Illinois University and received a master's degree in Education in 1986; and

WHEREAS, She reached every student, from those in high honor classes to those who struggled; she expected nothing but the best from everyone; she connected with all types of students, they were drawn to her because of her honesty; she respected the students and they respected her; from students to family and friends, she got people to do their best; and

WHEREAS, Mrs. Blumenschein was in Who's Who Among American Teachers several times; her 22 years of teaching were highlighted last year when she was named Downers Grove Teacher of the Year by the Junior Women's Club; a student from the

1 school nominated her; and

2 WHEREAS, A meticulous and stylish woman with a sense of  
3 humor, Mrs. Blumenschein also enjoyed spending an entire  
4 weekend watching sports; and

5 WHEREAS, The passing of Barbara Mead Blumenschein is felt  
6 by all who knew and loved her, especially her husband, Robert;  
7 her son, John; her daughter, Lauren; her mother, Bonnelyn Mead;  
8 and her sisters, Bonlyn Wheeling and Paula Finnie; therefore,  
9 be it

10 RESOLVED, BY THE SENATE OF THE NINETY-FOURTH GENERAL  
11 ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, that we mourn the passing of  
12 Barbara Mead Blumenschein and extend our sincerest condolences  
13 to her family, friends, and community; and be it further

14 RESOLVED, That a suitable copy of this resolution be  
15 presented to her family as an expression of our deepest  
16 sympathy.