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HOUSE RESOLUTION

WHEREAS, The members of the Illinois House of Representatives are pleased to congratulate Virginia Umberger of Elgin on the occasion of her 100th birthday; and

WHEREAS, Virginia has dedicated a large part of her life to gardening and promoting the preservation of native plants and trees; she and her husband were leaders of the Gourd Society, learning about the ancient art of growing and using gourds as art, tools, and other ideas; and

WHEREAS, She and her husband traveled the world using their knowledge on gourds; a museum in New Zealand displays writing between Virginia and a famous New Zealand botanist; and

WHEREAS, She has been a member of the Elgin Garden Club since 1950; she is a founding member of The Wild Ones and many other clubs that are dedicated to environmental issues; and

WHEREAS, Virginia has been featured in many magazine articles and is featured in the recent book, *Grace from the Garden*, with an entire chapter that describes her philosophy of life and how it is reflected in her work and gardening; and

WHEREAS, Virginia will celebrate the centennial of her

1 birth on May 28, 2009; therefore, be it

2 RESOLVED, BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE  
3 NINETY-SIXTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, that we  
4 congratulate Virginia Umberger and wish her the very best in  
5 all her future endeavors; and be it further

6 RESOLVED, That a suitable copy of this resolution be  
7 presented to Virginia Umberger as a symbol of our respect and  
8 esteem.