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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 Dr. Marie Wilkinson of Aurora, who passed away on August 12, 2010; and

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WHEREAS, She was born May 6, 1909 in New Orleans, Louisiana as Marie LeBeau; she moved to Aurora in 1929 and married auto mechanic Charles Wilkinson three years later; she was known as the matriarch of Aurora and spent most of her 101 years giving back to the city she called home; she fed the hungry, clothed the poor, convinced politicians to enact fair laws, and fought for equal rights for everyone; and

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WHEREAS, In 1961, she started the St. Vincent DePaul Center on Sard Avenue in Aurora with the help of St. Peter's Church; she also helped form the Quad County Urban League, Aurora's Human Relations Commission (which she chaired for 40 years), and the food pantry and child development center that bear her name; and

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WHEREAS, She was a strong crusader for civil rights and worked with Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. and met Rosa Parks and Mamie Till-Mobley, the mother of Emmett Till; in 2001, she received the Lumen Christi Award, the Catholic Church's highest honor for missionary work; and

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1 WHEREAS, She was preceded in death by her parents, Charles
2 and Maude (Robinson) La Beau; her husband, Charles Wilkinson;
3 her son, Donald Wilkinson; her grandson, Craig Wilkinson; her
4 brother, Edward La Beau, Sr.; her paternal grandparents, Robert
5 and Lena Robinson; her maternal grandmother, Olympia Glapion;
6 and her aunt and uncle, Arthur and Hazel Ogden; and

7 WHEREAS, Dr. Wilkinson is survived by her daughter, Sheila
8 Scott-Wilkinson; her two granddaughters, Donna Wilkinson and
9 Michelle Wilkinson; her great-grandson, Christopher Wilkinson;
10 and a host of nieces, nephews, friends, and other relatives;
11 therefore, be it

12 RESOLVED, BY THE SENATE OF THE NINETY-SIXTH GENERAL
13 ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, that we mourn, along with
14 her family and friends, the passing of Dr. Marie Wilkinson; and
15 be it further

16 RESOLVED, That a suitable copy of this resolution be
17 presented to the family of Dr. Marie Wilkinson as a symbol of
18 our sincere sympathy.