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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 Margot Schlesinger, who passed away on February 7, 2018; and

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WHEREAS, Margot Schlesinger was born in Germany to Yaakov and Sabine Wind on July 24, 1918; she was a member of the dwindling group of people, known as the Schindlerjuden, who survived the Holocaust because they were on Schindler's List; she was one of the last of that group living in the Chicago area; and

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WHEREAS, In 1938, when her father was arrested on Kristallnacht, she charmed one of the guards into letting him go; by 1939, her four brothers and a sister had fled Germany and headed to the United States, Shanghai, and Palestine; she had a visa to go to England, but she did not want to leave her parents; they were expelled to Poland, and without papers, were "stateless Jews"; and

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WHEREAS, As deportation rumors swirled in mid-1942, Margot Schlesinger urged her parents to go into hiding with her, but they refused; she later returned for them, but found their apartment empty, sealed with Gestapo tape; a month later, she married Chaskel Schlesinger, whom she met in Tarnow; and

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1 WHEREAS, In 1944, Margot Schlesinger was among the
2 approximately 300 female workers of Schindler who were
3 mistakenly sent to Auschwitz; before Schindler was able to get
4 the women back, she survived a selection process by Josef
5 Mengele; when he sent her to the line for execution, she spoke
6 up about her ability to work and was sent back; while at
7 Auschwitz, she saved the life of her cousin's fiance by asking
8 to have the woman's name added to Schindler's list; she forever
9 remembered the relief she felt when she was returned to
10 Schindler's custody and the kindness of his wife; and

11 WHEREAS, After liberation, Margot Schlesinger's husband
12 sold bolts of fabric he had hidden under his old home to help
13 fund their emigration first to France, and eventually to
14 Chicago; and

15 WHEREAS, Margot Schlesinger credited her survival to near
16 misses, lucky breaks, and miracles; she was active with
17 Congregation Ezras Israel and worked as an election judge; she
18 and her husband spoke about the Holocaust to school and civic
19 groups; after his death, she continued her public speaking; and

20 WHEREAS, Margot Schlesinger greeted the births of each of
21 her children, grandchildren, and great-grandchildren with
22 love, gratitude, and a touch of glee; she was a fabulous cook

1 and baker; she lived her life with the following philosophy:
2 "Everybody's born as a human being. There's no place in the
3 world for bigotry and for race hating"; and

4 WHEREAS, Margot Schlesinger was the loving wife of the late
5 Chaskel Schlesinger; the devoted mother of Aline (the late
6 Rabbi Morton) Yolcut, Dr. Sabine (Dr. Harold) Himmelfarb, and
7 Regine (Stuart) Meisel; the proud grandmother of Rabbi Daniel
8 (Anna), David (Rachel), Dr. Yonit (Dr. Raphi), Elana (Yossi),
9 Elie (Ronit), Jeremy (Rena), Dr. Rachel (Ariel), and Ariella
10 (Yaakov); the cherished great-grandmother of many; and the dear
11 sister of the late Edward (the late Tania) Wind, Hy (the late
12 Rita) Wind, Willi (the late Pnina) Wind, Julius (the late
13 Sonya) Wind, and Shoshana (the late Zvi) Tannenbaum; therefore,
14 be it

15 RESOLVED, BY THE SENATE OF THE ONE HUNDREDTH GENERAL
16 ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, that we mourn the passing of
17 Margot Schlesinger and extend our sincere condolences to her
18 family, friends, and all who knew and loved her; and be it
19 further

20 RESOLVED, That a suitable copy of this resolution be
21 presented to the family of Margot Schlesinger as an expression
22 of our deepest sympathy.