



SR0029

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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 Janet Elaine Obenchain, who passed away on January 2, 2017; and

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WHEREAS, Elaine Obenchain was born on March 22, 1934; she grew up in Grand Rapids and East Grand Rapids, Michigan and Evanston, where she graduated from Evanston Township High School; she spent two years at DePauw University, where she was a member of Pi Beta Phi sorority, and two years at the University of Minnesota, where she earned a Bachelor of Arts in Psychology in 1955; and

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WHEREAS, After college, Elaine Obenchain moved back to Evanston and worked as a claims adjuster in Chicago; she married Ralph Obenchain in October of 1957 and they settled in Evanston; they moved to Wilmette in 1966 and to rural Woodstock in 1980; and

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WHEREAS, Elaine Obenchain was a lifelong scholar and an accomplished writer; in 1977, she published the "Complete Catalog of Ampico Reproducing Piano Rolls" and she wrote and illustrated a five-volume set of books on McHenry County cemeteries, published by the McHenry County Illinois Genealogical Society; and

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1           WHEREAS, Elaine Obenchain loved animals, especially Rocky  
2 Mountain horses, cats, and beef calves; she was an avid flower  
3 and vegetable gardener and a gifted photographer who won  
4 several awards for her photos at the McHenry County Fair; she  
5 was an avid fisherwoman, landing several muskies that weighed  
6 more than 20 pounds; she had many talents, ranging from sewing  
7 her daughter's wedding dress, to re-upholstering furniture, to  
8 making the best Yorkshire pudding in the world; in her later  
9 years, she translated Spanish-language books on Asturian  
10 horses into English and mastered pedal kayaking; her greatest  
11 joy was watching her grandchildren learn to fish, tube, ski,  
12 play bean bag, shoot, and drive tractors and boats at her rural  
13 home in Woodstock and her cottage in northern Wisconsin; and

14           WHEREAS, Elaine Obenchain was the dearly loved wife of 57  
15 years of the late Ralph R. Obenchain Jr.; the beloved mother of  
16 R. Riley Obenchain, Edith Obenchain, Samuel (Denise)  
17 Obenchain, Valerie McLeer, and Abigail Obenchain (William  
18 Cole); the adored grandma to Mason and Avery Cole, Jax and Eli  
19 Obenchain, Krista and Sammy Obenchain, and Milo and Skyler  
20 McLeer; the cherished daughter of the late Janet and H. Ralph  
21 Higgins; the sister of Frances Proctor, and Brian Higgins; and  
22 the sister-in-law of Gloria O. Russell, Nancy Obenchain, and  
23 Mary Higgins; therefore, be it

1           RESOLVED, BY THE SENATE OF THE ONE HUNDREDTH GENERAL  
2 ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, that we mourn the passing of  
3 Janet Elaine Obenchain, and extend our sincere condolences to  
4 her family, friends, and all who knew and loved her; and be it  
5 further

6           RESOLVED, That a suitable copy of this resolution be  
7 presented to the family of Elaine Obenchain as an expression of  
8 our deepest sympathy.