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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 Ann "Jan" O'Rourke of Danville, who passed away on January 9, 2017; and

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WHEREAS, Janet O'Rourke was born in New Haven, Connecticut to Frank W. Flood and Rose Clark Corbett on April 16, 1931; she graduated from Hamden High School in Hamden, Connecticut in 1949 and attended the University of Connecticut; she earned a Bachelor of Science in Early Childhood Education from Southern Connecticut State College in 1953; and

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WHEREAS, Janet O'Rourke began her career in education in Hamden, where she taught at Dunbar Hill School for four years; she worked towards her master's degree at Bridgewater Teachers College in Bridgewater, Massachusetts; in 1957, she taught elementary school at a United States Army base in Zama, Japan, for one year and then on another base in Giessen, West Germany for a year; in 1959, she became Assistant to the Dean of Women at Catholic University of America in Washington, D.C., where she also worked as director of the student center and as manager of the social center; she married John O'Rourke in Hamden on June 24, 1961; and

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WHEREAS, Janet O'Rourke continued her teaching career in

1 Danville; she taught at the YWCA Pre-School from 1981 to 1989,
2 serving as director from 1986 to 1989; she taught pre-school at
3 St. Paul's Catholic School and at Central Christian Church; and

4 WHEREAS, Janet O'Rourke was active in numerous school and
5 community activities; she served on the school board and was
6 President of the Home and School Board at St. Paul's School;
7 she was the Parents' Club President at Schlarman High School;
8 she was a 4-H group leader and a member of the Vermilion County
9 Bar Association Auxiliary and Birthright of Danville; she was
10 part of the fifth class of the Leadership Danville program; in
11 recent years, she was active in the Danville Garden Club; after
12 her retirement, she planted and tended a beautiful and
13 extensive flower garden at her home each summer; and

14 WHEREAS, Janet O'Rourke enjoyed family holiday
15 celebrations and annual trips to Lake Michigan for Labor Day
16 weekend; she also enjoyed traveling to visit her sisters on the
17 East Coast; and

18 WHEREAS, Janet O'Rourke was preceded in death by her
19 parents and an infant grandson; and

20 WHEREAS, Janet O'Rourke is survived by her husband of 55
21 years, Honorable John P. O'Rourke (Ret.); her children, Kerry,
22 Beth (Kevin Reiman), Ellen (Peter McCormack), Amy (Steve

1 Marsey), Peter, and Meg (Jeff Head); her grandchildren, Kate,
2 Erin, and Will Reiman, Mary Margaret and Brigid McCormack, Eli,
3 Jane, and John Marsey, Aubre Jean and Cain O'Rourke, and Simon,
4 Seamus, and Max Head; and her sisters, Marie Merkel, Rosemary
5 Fitzpatrick, Joan Ciaburri, Frances Jack, Virginia Kelly, and
6 Elizabeth Ziter; therefore, be it

7 RESOLVED, BY THE SENATE OF THE ONE HUNDREDTH GENERAL
8 ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, that we mourn the passing of
9 Janet Ann "Jan" O'Rourke, and extend our sincere condolences to
10 her family, friends, and all who knew and loved her; and be it
11 further

12 RESOLVED, That a suitable copy of this resolution be
13 presented to the family of Janet O'Rourke as an expression of
14 our deepest sympathy.