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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 Peggy Roche Boyle, who passed away on April 14, 2018 at the age of 73; and

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WHEREAS, Peggy Boyle was born to Patrick and Kathleen Roche; one of four children, she grew up on the West Side in St. Thomas Aquinas parish; when she was four years old, her mother passed away; a few years later, her father married Grace Dorgan, and they had four more children; when she was 13, she began her long and devoted career in the dance industry as her father's dance driller, counting out steps and demonstrating them for students; and

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WHEREAS, Peggy Boyle became certified by the Irish Dancing Commission as a dance teacher by learning the melodies of 30 dances and memorizing how to perform at least eight of them; with the Pat Roche School of Irish Dancing, Peggy Boyle gave lessons at Connolly's pub, the Doonaree Room, and Emerald Catering; she also taught at the American Legion Hall in Brookfield and the West Dale Gardens Community Center in Hillside; she was well known in the dance community as a "no-nonsense instructor" who could quiet a room with just one look; she also encouraged a sense of camaraderie amongst her students and promoted friendships; and

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1 WHEREAS, Peggy Boyle expressed that dancing was about
2 having fun, and although she was excited for her students to
3 win a competition, it was "much more important to her that her
4 students loved Irish dancing"; and

5 WHEREAS, Peggy Roche married Jimmy Boyle, a guitar player,
6 and together they formed the Traveling People, a group that
7 performed throughout Chicago; she often performed spoons with
8 the group and, according to her son, Seamus, was "one of the
9 finest spoons players they'd ever heard"; and

10 WHEREAS, As her family grew, Peggy Boyle settled in
11 Brookfield and scaled back on dance instruction to care for her
12 children; after she had her fifth child, she started teaching
13 dance to adults at St. Xavier University and to young children
14 at her home; she simultaneously worked for travel agencies,
15 including Gaffney Travel on the South Side; she founded her own
16 travel agency, Roche Tours, which led groups to Ireland; and

17 WHEREAS, Peggy Boyle was a gifted cook who especially
18 admired the Barefoot Contessa Ina Garten's recipes, however,
19 Irish soda bread was her way of comforting many; and

20 WHEREAS, Peggy Boyle was the dear sister of Kathleen (Tom)
21 McDonnell, Mary Pat (Tony) Kulak, Patrick (Jan) Roche, Collette

1 (Tom) McGrath, Kevin (Joanne) Roche, Michael (Suzanne) Roche,
2 and the late John (Liane) Roche, the devoted and loving mother
3 of Meghan (Marcus) Larson, Kathleen (Jim) Farnan, Siobhan (Tom)
4 Luedtke, Seamus (Beth) Boyle, and Patrick (Amy) Boyle, the
5 proud grandmother of 15, and the fond aunt of many nieces and
6 nephews; 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 Peggy Roche Boyle and extend our sincere condolences to her
10 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 Peggy Boyle as an expression of our
14 deepest sympathy.