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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 Bernadine Evans Stake of Urbana, who passed away on February 23, 2019; and

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WHEREAS, Bernadine Stake was born on a farm near Lindy, Nebraska to Burt and Ida Haug Evans on April 29, 1926; she graduated from the University of Nebraska and also earned her master's degree and her doctorate in education from the University of Illinois; and

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WHEREAS, Bernadine Stake began her career as a teacher in a one-room country school house; she then taught elementary students in San Diego and later taught science education to elementary teachers; she was the principal evaluator of PLATO computer elementary mathematics education for the Educational Testing Service; she also evaluated the National Sex Equity Demonstration Project based in Broward County, Florida for the National Science Foundation; and

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WHEREAS, Bernadine Stake served on the Equal Rights Committee of the American Educational Research Association; she was also active in the Urbana community and served on the Urbana City Council and the Planning Commission; she was the Democratic precinct committee chairwoman for the 10th

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1 Precinct, 4th Ward for many decades; and

2 WHEREAS, Bernadine Stake was an active leader in local
3 government; she promoted a progressive agenda that included the
4 passage of a Human Rights Ordinance in 1975, the first in the
5 state and one of the first in the nation to acknowledge LGBTQ
6 rights; she introduced and shepherded the passage of a Fair
7 Housing Law for the City of Urbana to thwart redlining, and she
8 introduced a resolution putting Urbana on record opposing the
9 war in Vietnam; she also promoted tenant safety with an
10 ordinance requiring deadbolts on all exterior doors of
11 apartments; she advocated for protecting the environment in
12 many ways, including residential collection of recyclable
13 materials, which passed in 1986; she was appointed to the
14 Urbana Planning Commission in 1995 and served for almost 20
15 years; and

16 WHEREAS, Bernadine Stake and her husband Bob attended and
17 supported the Unitarian Universalist Church, starting in
18 Lincoln, Nebraska, and then the Green Street church in Urbana;
19 they also attended Camp Unistar in Minnesota for many years;
20 she twice served as president of the board for the Channing
21 Murray Foundation, the campus affiliate of the church; and

22 WHEREAS, Bernadine Stake's foundation was her family and
23 all were welcome in her home; she inspired women to pursue

1 political leadership, campaigned tirelessly for other women
2 pursuing careers in government, and fought for fairness and
3 justice for all in every way she could; she was not afraid to
4 challenge the status quo; she will be remembered as an
5 energetic, spirited, and loving woman, who was beloved for her
6 fighting spirit, optimism, and caring nature; and

7 WHEREAS, Bernadine Stake was preceded in death by her
8 parents; her brother, Bert Merlin Evans; and her sister,
9 Pauline Evans Lemke; and

10 WHEREAS, Bernadine Stake is survived by her husband of 67
11 years, Robert Stake; her children, Jeffrey (Janet) Stake,
12 Benjamin (Nitaya) Stake, Sara (Mark Joselyn) Stake, and Jacob
13 (Kim Knutson) Stake; her grandchildren, Christopher, Laura,
14 Alison, Walker, and Constantine Stake and Ben, Sam, and Nellie
15 Joselyn; her great-grandson, Maceo Jean-Pierre; her
16 great-granddaughter, Sloane Craig-Stake; her brother, Kenneth
17 (Marilynn) Evans; and her sisters, Enid Kollars and Claryce Lee
18 Evans; therefore, be it

19 RESOLVED, BY THE SENATE OF THE ONE HUNDRED FIRST GENERAL
20 ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, that we mourn the passing of
21 Bernadine Evans Stake and extend our sincere condolences to her
22 family, friends, and all who knew and loved her; and be it
23 further

1 RESOLVED, That a suitable copy of this resolution be
2 presented to the family of Bernadine Stake as an expression of
3 our deepest sympathy.