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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 Florence M. O'Neil Brannon on December 9, 2018 at the age of 98; and

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WHEREAS, Florence Brannon was born on October 9, 1920 to James and Mary O'Neil, the oldest of their three daughters, in Ludlow, Massachusetts; she was salutatorian of the Ludlow High School class of 1937, and, in 1941, graduated from UMass-Amherst with a Bachelor of Arts in Home Economics (now Food Science); she was a member and officer of Chi Omega sorority; and

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WHEREAS, In 1942, Florence Brannon was recruited by the United States Department of Agriculture, where she served for six years as a food inspector of California Canneries; in this role, she ensured that the foods delivered to the U.S. military from San Diego to the Oregon border were Grade A; she relished the "good deal of freedom" the position gave her; while living in San Francisco, she married Richard Brannon, a ship's engineer in the Merchant Marines; and

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WHEREAS, Florence Brannon, after the birth of her son, earned a master's degree in management at The Ohio State University; she resumed her career with the federal government

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1 as a dietician for Northampton V.A. Medical Center, where she  
2 worked for 35 years, eventually becoming the chief dietician  
3 supervising the 65 staff members; and

4 WHEREAS, Florence Brannon was active for many years in the  
5 American Dietetic Association and Zonta International, a  
6 service group focused on empowering women around the world;  
7 following her retirement in 1985, she became a great traveler,  
8 visiting family, friends, and historic places across the United  
9 States as well as in Europe, the Middle East and Asia,  
10 including a favorite trip to the Great Wall of China; and

11 WHEREAS, In December 2002, Florence Brannon moved to Oak  
12 Park to be near family; she was considered very observant and  
13 pleasant; in celebration of her 98th birthday, she ordered  
14 Chinese food with champagne and creme brulee for all; and

15 WHEREAS, Florence Brannon was preceded in death by her son,  
16 Richard, and by her sisters, Alice Marshall and Marion (Paul)  
17 Scholten; and

18 WHEREAS, Florence Brannon is survived by her  
19 brother-in-law, James Marshall, as well as many nieces and  
20 nephews and other loved ones; therefore, be it

21 RESOLVED, BY THE SENATE OF THE ONE HUNDRED FIRST GENERAL

1 ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, that we mourn the passing of  
2 Florence M. O'Neil Brannon, and extend our sincere condolences  
3 to her family, friends, and all who knew and loved her; and be  
4 it further

5 RESOLVED, That a suitable copy of this resolution be  
6 presented to the family of Florence Brannon as an expression of  
7 our deepest sympathy.