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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 Rita Florence Link Franke, who passed away on May 27, 2019; and

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WHEREAS, Rita Franke was born in Springfield to Rose Marie Klopenburg and Frank Valentine Link on September 3, 1923; she attended St. Peter and Paul Grade School and Ursuline Academy; in her early years, she learned to tap dance and developed a lifelong love of dancing; when she was 14, her family moved to Lake Springfield, and she enjoyed fishing, swimming, and hosting her friends; and

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WHEREAS, Rita Franke began working at the Office of Price Administration in Chicago; she married Allyn Franke at Blessed Sacrament Church in Springfield in 1945, and they lived in Chicago for a time before settling in Deerfield; and

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WHEREAS, In Deerfield, Rita Franke's life initially revolved around taking care of her family, her husband Al and their five children, Terry, Barbara, Rich, Greg, and Alan; they attended Holy Cross Church, where Rita became active when the children attended the elementary school; in 1958, she and Al worked with other families to found Tennaqua, a family swim and tennis club; and

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1 WHEREAS, Rita Franke was deeply committed to her community;
2 she volunteered with numerous organizations and particularly
3 enjoyed cutting men's hair at St. Anne's home; she had a love
4 of plants and specialized in tending the topiaries for 20 years
5 at Chicago Botanic Garden; she also volunteered at a soup
6 kitchen in Waukegan well into her 80s; and

7 WHEREAS, Rita Franke enjoyed music, sewing, knitting,
8 needlepoint, ceramics, decorating, painting, and bridge; in
9 1978, she co-founded The Potting Post, a unique store in
10 Deerfield selling plants and antiques; she and Al bought a
11 small house in Alejuela, Costa Rica, which they visited for 25
12 years during Chicago's coldest winter months; she loved the
13 sunshine, a cold cervesa at lunch, a siesta in the hammock, the
14 warmth of the people, and the precious time with her cherished
15 Al; and

16 WHEREAS, Rita Franke was affectionately called "Granri";
17 she loved connecting with her 8 grandchildren and her 11
18 great-grandchildren; she was a parishioner of Holy Cross Church
19 for 70 years and was one of the first women to give holy
20 communication there; and

21 WHEREAS, Rita Franke was preceded in death by her husband
22 of 62 years, Allyn; her son, Richard; her daughter-in-law,

1 Paula; and her grandson, Eric; therefore, be it

2 RESOLVED, BY THE SENATE OF THE ONE HUNDRED FIRST GENERAL
3 ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, that we mourn the passing of
4 Rita Florence Link Franke and extend our sincere condolences to
5 her family, friends, and all who knew and loved her; and be it
6 further

7 RESOLVED, That a suitable copy of this resolution be
8 presented to the family of Rita Franke as an expression of our
9 deepest sympathy.