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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 Elaine L. Rundle-Schwark of Springfield, who passed away on October 5, 2021; and

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WHEREAS, Elaine Rundle-Schwark was born to Richard and Eleanor Rundle on December 8, 1945; she was educated in the Boston public schools and graduated with a degree in education from Boston State Teachers College (University of Massachusetts-Boston) in 1968; and

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WHEREAS, Elaine Rundle-Schwark became the foster parent to two sisters, Ruthann and Wanda Montgomery, in June of 1984; the following year she legally adopted them; she married Stephen Schwark on October 9, 1987, and the family moved to Springfield in 1988 when Stephen accepted a teaching position at Sangamon State University (University of Illinois-Springfield); and

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WHEREAS, Elaine Rundle-Schwark was a fifth-grade teacher at John Marshall Elementary School in Boston for over two decades; she received numerous awards for her excellence in teaching and was a demanding but effective teacher who students came to love; while teaching full time, she completed a master's degree in education focused on counselor training;

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1 in the 1980s, she began work towards a doctorate in education;
2 after moving to Springfield in 1988, she worked with students
3 in the 5th grade at St. Agnes School as a case study for her
4 dissertation, which she defended in the Spring of 1992; and

5 WHEREAS, Elaine Rundle-Schwark began to teach part time in
6 Sangamon State University's Applied Study Term, an internship
7 program, after completing her Ed.D.; she soon became assistant
8 director, and from 2003 to 2009, she served as director; she
9 remained a faculty member for almost 20 years, retiring in
10 August of 2009 and ending a remarkable 40-year career in
11 education; and

12 WHEREAS, Elaine Rundle-Schwark and her husband especially
13 loved taking their grandchildren on vacations; she loved to
14 decorate and for 12 years lived in a near century old Victorian
15 home in the Dorchester neighborhood of Boston; in 1999, she
16 designed the house that she and Steve had built; she was a
17 gifted genealogist and produced books on the history of both
18 her family and her husband's family; she was also a woman of
19 great faith and a long-time member of the congregation of
20 Cherry Hills Church; and

21 WHEREAS, Elaine Rundle-Schwark was preceded in death by
22 her daughter, Ruthie, and her sisters, Martha and Anita
23 Borrell; and

1 WHEREAS, Elaine Rundle-Schwark is survived by her husband
2 of 34 years, Steve; her daughter, Wanda; her grandchildren,
3 Alair, Mason, and Alexander "Xander"; her sister, Evelyn
4 (Steve Pedro); and her brother, Richard (Judy); therefore, be
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6 RESOLVED, BY THE SENATE OF THE ONE HUNDRED SECOND GENERAL
7 ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, that we mourn the passing of
8 Elaine L. Rundle-Schwark and extend our sincere condolences to
9 her family, friends, and all who knew and loved her; and be it
10 further

11 RESOLVED, That a suitable copy of this resolution be
12 presented to the family of Elaine Rundle-Schwark as an
13 expression of our deepest sympathy.