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## SENATE RESOLUTION

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WHEREAS, The members of the Senate of the State of Illinois were saddened to learn of the death of Mary Ellen Dougherty Ripper Schmitt, who served as West Peoria Township clerk for 18 years, on Monday, September 15, 2003; and

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WHEREAS, Mrs. Schmitt was born on January 14, 1918 in Emington to Edward and Margaret Conroy Dougherty; and

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WHEREAS, On October 25, 1941, Mrs. Schmitt married Walter Armand Ripper, who died December 24, 1979; on August 17, 1985, she married Joseph T. Schmitt, who survives; and

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WHEREAS, Mrs. Schmitt graduated from St. Francis School of Nursing in 1939; she was the first lay supervisor of pediatrics at the school; she taught pediatrics to nursing students and later became assistant director of nursing before retiring in 1983, after 26 years; and

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WHEREAS, Mrs. Schmitt was the founder and first president of the St. Francis Senior Saints; she was also a member of St. Mark's Catholic Church in Peoria, the St. Francis Auxiliary, the St. Francis Advisor Committee, the Catholic Women's League, and the Visiting Nurse Association; and

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WHEREAS, Mrs. Schmitt was a member of the Illinois Township Officials, West Peoria Residents Association, West Peoria Democrats, and Peoria County Democrats; and

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WHEREAS, Mrs. Schmitt was preceded in death by 3 stepsons; 4 sisters; 3 brothers; and one step-grandchild; she is survived by one daughter, Kathy (and Alex) Garcia; 2 sons, James (and Melissa) Ripper and Robert (and Rosanne) Ripper; 5 stepdaughters, Marilyn (and Louis) Scroggins, Joanie (and Tom) Burke, Loretta Faley, Katie (and Bruce) Boyer, and Ginny (and Jim) Verdun; 2 stepsons, Thomas (and Mary Lynne) Schmitt and Paul Schmitt; 10 grandchildren; 30 step-grandchildren; 21

1 great-grandchildren; 15 step-great-grandchildren; one  
2 step-great-great-grandchild; one brother, Tom (and Lydia)  
3 Dougherty; 3 sisters, Patricia Cutright, Agnes Neemers, and  
4 Kathryn (and Mike) Lurz; and

5 WHEREAS, The passing of Mary Ellen Dougherty Ripper  
6 Schmitt has been deeply felt by many, especially her family  
7 and friends; therefore, be it

8 RESOLVED, BY THE SENATE OF THE NINETY-THIRD GENERAL  
9 ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, that together with her  
10 friends and family, we mourn the passing of Mary Ellen  
11 Dougherty Ripper Schmitt, and we extend to her friends and  
12 family our deepest sympathy; and be it further

13 RESOLVED, That a suitable copy of this resolution be  
14 presented to the family of Mary Ellen Dougherty Ripper  
15 Schmitt as an expression of our sincere condolences during  
16 their time of loss.