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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 Mary Jean Roush of Downers Grove, who passed away on March 16, 2008; and

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WHEREAS, Mary Jean Roush was born as Mary Jean Willman on September 10, 1924 in Owosso, Michigan; she met her future husband, Roy Roush, at Michigan State University; they were married in 1946 at her family's summer cottage on Mullett Lake in northern Michigan; and

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WHEREAS, Mary Jean Roush attended Michigan State University and was a member of Kappa Delta Sorority; and

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WHEREAS, Mary Jean Roush had an illustrious career as a kindergarten teacher in the Downers Grove District, teaching at both Lincoln and Hillcrest Elementary Schools; she was awarded a Teacher of the Year designation in 1982 in recognition of her work; she often stated that she loved teaching kindergarten because the children wore their hearts on their sleeves; and

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WHEREAS, Mary Jean Roush spent her summers at her beloved cottage on Mullett Lake, Michigan; she loved the local flora and wildlife, and when she arrived at the beginning of each summer, the birds and animals always appeared as if to welcome

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1 her; she regularly attended concerts at Bay View in Petoskey
2 and supported several local charities, including the Little
3 Traverse Conservancy; and

4 WHEREAS, Mary Jean Roush was an active member of the First
5 United Methodist Church in Downers Grove; she participated in
6 J.O.Y. (Jesus, Others, and Yourself) as a young adult and later
7 attended Young at Heart meetings; she forged many friendships
8 within the church and particularly appreciated the talents of
9 the musicians and various choirs, including the bell choirs;
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11 WHEREAS, Mary Jean Roush enjoyed music and playing the
12 piano; she was known for her artistic flair and her creative
13 Halloween costumes; and

14 WHEREAS, Mary Jean Roush always kept her home open to her
15 family and friends; the family hosted an exchange student from
16 South Africa, Marie Von Straaten, who remains a close-knit part
17 of the family; and

18 WHEREAS, Mary Jean Roush is survived by her sister, Dorothy
19 Lausten; her daughters, Susan Devick and Martha Winchell; her
20 granddaughters, Dr. Jennifer LaBonte, Erin Winchell Koval,
21 Samantha Devick, Ashley Devick, and Lindsay Devick; and her
22 triplet great-grandchildren, Luke, Cecilia, and Jillian

1 LaBonte; and

2 WHEREAS, Mary Jean Roush will be remembered by all who knew
3 and loved her for her love of family and children; therefore,
4 be it

5 RESOLVED, BY THE SENATE OF THE NINETY-FIFTH GENERAL
6 ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, that we mourn, along with
7 her family and friends, the passing of Mary Jean Roush; and be
8 it further

9 RESOLVED, That a suitable copy of this resolution be
10 presented to the family of Mary Jean Roush as an expression of
11 our sympathy.