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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 Melba Colleen (nee Brush) Ripper of Canton, who passed away on November 4, 2013; and

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WHEREAS, Melba Ripper was born on December 30, 1935 to Carl and Josephine (nee Dowell) Brush; and

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WHEREAS, Melba Ripper used the skills she learned at Brown's Business College in Peoria, now Midstate College, to help her husband run the family farm outside of Canton; she served on the county's Insurance Committee and represented Fulton County on the Governmental Inter-Insurance Exchange (GIE) in Bloomington and served as the Chairman of its Advisory Board; and

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WHEREAS, Melba Ripper was a lifelong member of the Democratic Party; she represented District 3 on the Fulton County Board from 1976 to 1996, serving as Chair for 10 of those years; she was the first woman Chair for Fulton County and only the second female in the State to hold such a position; in the early 1970s, she and her husband formed the Fulton County Citizens for Better Health and Environment to provide a voice for the citizens when the Metropolitan Sanitary District of Greater Chicago entered Fulton County; and

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1 WHEREAS, Melba Ripper was a member of the United City
2 Council of Illinois and served as Chairman for 2 years; she
3 also served on the boards of the Fulton Mason Crisis Service,
4 where she was also Treasurer, and as President with UPIC; in
5 1990, she was recognized as one of the Young Women's Christian
6 Association's "Women of Achievement" for her political and
7 community contributions; and

8 WHEREAS, Melba Ripper was a volunteer at the Fulton County
9 Health Department and was a member of Trinity Lutheran Church
10 in Canton, where she held a number of positions, including
11 financial secretary and congregational president; she was a
12 member of the Fulton County Sewing Guild; and

13 WHEREAS, Melba Ripper was preceded in death by her parents;
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15 WHEREAS, Melba Ripper is survived by her sister, Joyce (nee
16 Brush) Elston; her brother, Jerry (Judy) Brush; her husband,
17 William J. Ripper; her daughter, Joanne Ripper; her sons, Jim
18 (Jackie) Ripper and Joel (Darinda) Ripper; her grandchildren,
19 Haley Aubrey, Jonathan Ripper, Jason Ripper, and Adam Ripper;
20 many great-nephews and nieces; and a whole community of friends
21 and colleagues; therefore, be it

1 RESOLVED, BY THE SENATE OF THE NINETY-EIGHTH GENERAL
2 ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, that we mourn the passing of
3 Melba Colleen Ripper, and extend our sincere condolences to her
4 family, friends, and all who knew and loved her; and be it
5 further

6 RESOLVED, That a suitable copy of this resolution be
7 presented to the family of Melba Ripper as an expression of our
8 deepest sympathy.