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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 Sister Mary Lou Larkin, who passed away on August 29, 2014; and

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WHEREAS, Sr. Mary Lou Larkin was born on September 18, 1929 in Omaha, Nebraska; and

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WHEREAS, Sr. Mary Lou Larkin had a long-standing connection to St. Edmund Parish and the entire Oak Park community; for 11 years during the 1970s and 1980s, she taught school at St. Edmund School; she was fondly remembered by her former students and their parents as a kind and gentle disciplinarian who was adept at getting her point across to all, in a stern but loving manner; and

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WHEREAS, Sr. Mary Lou Larkin had many varied assignments during her religious career, including a principalship at St. Bernard School in Los Angeles, California; she also served at St. Dorothy Catholic School on the South Side of Chicago, where she listened in person to many black leaders as they met and spoke there on many occasions; years later, her students from St. Dorothy invited her back to honor her strong faith and loving and professional guidance; and

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1           WHEREAS, Prior to moving to Mt. Carmel in Dubuque, Iowa in  
2 2011, Sr. Mary Lou Larkin resided at Oak Park's Mills Park  
3 Tower for 11 years; she not only developed lasting friendships  
4 at the tower but also became the unofficial "chaplain" for the  
5 residents; and

6           WHEREAS, Sr. Mary Lou Larkin was an active proponent of the  
7 goals of the fledgling Oak Park Human Relations Committee  
8 during the 1970s; she was an accomplished downhill skier and  
9 continued honing her skills well into her 70s; and

10           WHEREAS, Sr. Mary Lou Larkin is survived by her brother,  
11 Mark Larkin, and his family, as well as many relatives in  
12 Phoenix, Arizona and Omaha, Nebraska; therefore, be it

13           RESOLVED, BY THE SENATE OF THE NINETY-NINTH GENERAL  
14 ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, that we, along with her  
15 family and friends, mourn the passing of Sister Mary Lou  
16 Larkin; and be it further

17           RESOLVED, That a suitable copy of this resolution be  
18 presented to the family of Sr. Mary Lou Larkin as an expression  
19 of our sympathy.