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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 Erika Gertrude Johanna Nieper of Waukegan, who passed away on February 28, 2016; and

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WHEREAS, Erika Nieper was born on March 18, 1922 in the Bavarian Alps town of Oberstdorf, Germany; her parents were Gustav and Cecilia Keinath; at the age of about four, her parents moved their family to the northern Italian town of Riva to take ownership of a hotel; during her formative years in Riva, she became a competitive swimmer, winning many regional medals; she enjoyed snow skiing, ice skating, and exploring the mountains around Riva and found and developed talents in charcoal sketching, water colors, and the piano; she also became a wonderful cook and baker; as World War II got worse, her father died suddenly and her family relocated to Munich, Germany to wait out the war; and

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WHEREAS, After the war, the United States government hired Erika Nieper as an interpreter, as she was fluent in German, Italian, and English; while there, she met her future husband, Henry, a soldier in the United States Army; they had planned a wedding in Munich in 1948, when Henry was suddenly called back to his hometown of Corsicana, Texas for several months to attend to urgent family matters; instead of waiting until he

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1 could get back to Munich, they were married over the telephone  
2 by a judge in Corsicana; in 1952, Erika and Henry relocated to  
3 the United States by way of Dallas, Texas and Chicago; she  
4 became a United States citizen in 1957 and the couple  
5 eventually settled in Waukegan to raise their family; and

6 WHEREAS, Erika Nieper worked at the Scott Forseman Company  
7 in Glenview for many years until her retirement; she also  
8 worked as a manuscript typist in the college textbook  
9 department, typing English, German, Italian, Spanish, French,  
10 and mathematics texts; and

11 WHEREAS, Erika Nieper was preceded in death by her husband  
12 of 32 years, Henry, and her son-in-law, Edward Saulius; and

13 WHEREAS, Erika Nieper is survived by her children, Louis  
14 Nieper, Elaine Saulius, and Edward Nieper; her soon-to-be  
15 son-in-law, Jon Smith; and her extended family, Kristina Gall,  
16 Ilona Hirn, George and Roma Stoltengofas, Joseph and Poala Hirn  
17 and their son, Felipe, and Christina and Steven Arseneau and  
18 their children, Theodore and Eleanor; therefore, be it

19 RESOLVED, BY THE SENATE OF THE NINETY-NINTH GENERAL  
20 ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, that we, along with her  
21 family and friends, mourn the passing of Erika Gertrude Johanna  
22 Nieper; and be it further

1           RESOLVED, That a suitable copy of this resolution be  
2 presented to the family of Erika Nieper as an expression of our  
3 sympathy.