

## 1 SENATE RESOLUTION

2 WHEREAS, The members of the Illinois Senate wish to  
3 express their sincere condolences to the family and friends  
4 of Betty Nicolai, who passed away on August 15, 2001; and

5 WHEREAS, Betty Jones Nicolai was born on September 17,  
6 1931 in Chicago, Illinois; she graduated from North Park  
7 Academy and attended North Park College in Chicago; and

8 WHEREAS, Betty Jones married Herb Nicolai on June 2,  
9 1951, they are the parents of three children; and

10 WHEREAS, Mrs. Nicolai began her newspaper career in the  
11 1960's as a part-time reporter with Day Publications; she  
12 later moved on to Des Plaines Publishing, where she wrote  
13 features, theater and restaurant reviews, and a humor column;  
14 in addition, she worked in classified advertising where her  
15 sense of humor surfaced as she conducted a contest that  
16 challenged readers to find the bogus ad that she had written;  
17 and

18 WHEREAS, Mrs. Nicolai was appointed to the position of  
19 Food Editor for the Des Plaines Publishing Company's Chicago  
20 Suburban Times Newspapers in 1985; during her tenure as the  
21 Food Editor, she was able to meet and interview a number of  
22 noted chefs and even hosted the famed Emeril Lagasse, who  
23 cooked a meal in her Des Plaines kitchen; in 1991 she was  
24 honored as Food Editor of the Year by the Illinois Beef  
25 Council; and

26 WHEREAS, Mrs. Nicolai began working for Pioneer Press as  
27 a food writer in 1995 after Pioneer acquired the Des Plaines  
28 Publishing Company; she served as a food writer for all of  
29 the Pioneer Press papers and wrote features for the Home &  
30 Design section and for the Schools and Images sections of the  
31 North Group papers; and

1           WHEREAS, Mrs. Nicolai endeared herself to Pioneer readers  
2           and her co-workers with her willingness to track down  
3           recipes, answer questions, and offer advice to cooks in a  
4           quandary; and

5           WHEREAS, Mrs. Nicolai was a member of the Des Plaines  
6           Christian Science Church and a music enthusiast who wrote a  
7           number of shows for her husband's barbershop singing group;  
8           she was also an animal lover who, along with her husband,  
9           operated a popular pet sitting service; and

10          WHEREAS, The passing of Betty Nicolai will be deeply felt  
11          by all who knew and loved her, especially her husband of 50  
12          years, Herb Nicolai; her son, Rick (wife, Dana) Nicolai; her  
13          daughters, Nancy (husband, Roger) Messman and Lori (husband,  
14          Al) Barger; and her grandchildren, Jorie, Alyssa, and Amy;  
15          therefore, be it

16          RESOLVED, BY THE SENATE OF THE NINETY-SECOND GENERAL  
17          ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, that we mourn, along with  
18          all who knew her, the death of Betty Nicolai of Des Plaines,  
19          Illinois; and be it further

20          RESOLVED, That a suitable copy of this resolution be  
21          presented to the family of Betty Nicolai with our sincere  
22          condolences.