



SR0164

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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 Velvet Bailey Graves of North Chicago, who passed away on January 29, 2017 at the age of 94; and

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WHEREAS, Velvet Graves was born in Randolph County, Alabama to George and Eliza Heard Bailey; and

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WHEREAS, Velvet Graves was employed by The Goodwin/Simmons family for over 60 years; she began with the family in 1947 in Anniston, Alabama, moved with them to Washington, D.C. in 1953, and then to Lake Forest in 1956; she married Robert Graves in 1961; and

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WHEREAS, Velvet Graves was devoted to her own family, often going back to Alabama to visit her brothers and sisters and their extended families; she found great joy in attending family reunions; she was always very supportive of her family members, particularly her nieces and nephews, often having them visit or even live with her in her house in Waukegan; and

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WHEREAS, Velvet Graves was a loving member of the Goodwin/Simmons family, having been with them throughout the childhood of the Goodwin children, Andy, Barton, and Charlotte; she played an active role in their upbringing and was a steady

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1 fixture in their household and lives; she was a devoted
2 employee, companion, and friend of Mrs. Richard Simmons,
3 remaining in her employ until her death in 2009; for the last
4 10 years, she lived with Mrs. Elfreda Sproul of North Chicago,
5 who has been a warm and loving friend since 1968; and

6 WHEREAS, Velvet Graves was active in the church throughout
7 her life; she was devout in her belief and was a dedicated
8 reader of the Bible; and

9 WHEREAS, Velvet Graves was preceded in death by her
10 husband, Robert; and her siblings, Oran, Willie, Cloris, Heard,
11 and Emma; and

12 WHEREAS, Velvet Graves is survived by her brother, John T.,
13 and a host of nieces, nephews, and other loving relatives and
14 friends; therefore, be it

15 RESOLVED, BY THE SENATE OF THE ONE HUNDREDTH GENERAL
16 ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, that we mourn the passing of
17 Velvet Bailey Graves, and extend our sincere condolences to her
18 family, friends, and all who knew and loved her; and be it
19 further

20 RESOLVED, That a suitable copy of this resolution be
21 presented to the family of Velvet Graves as an expression of

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1 our deepest sympathy.