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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 Marlene Ann Lantz of Rensselaer, Indiana (formerly of McHenry), who passed away on October 5, 2017; and

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WHEREAS, Marlene Lantz was born in Streator to Edward A. Kettmann and Mariette A. Griesmar on January 5, 1947; she attended St. Mary's School and graduated from Marian Central Catholic High School in 1965; she then studied at Elgin Community College and the Milwaukee School of Mortuary Science, where she earned her apprentice license as a Funeral Director and an embalmer; with a never-ending passion for knowledge, she also completed courses in forensic medicine at St. Louis University School of Medicine, Wayne State University, and at Northern Illinois University, in addition to police science courses at Elgin Community College; and

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WHEREAS, Marlene Lantz began her career as a morgue and autopsy assistant; she then received her professional license and worked for Sherman Hospital, St. Joseph Hospital in Elgin, and Wait-Ross-Allanson Funeral Home in Algonquin until she became Chief Deputy Coroner for McHenry County; she was then elected Coroner for McHenry County; her career as Coroner spanned 24 years, until her retirement in 2012; during her time as Coroner, she also served a two-week stint as McHenry County

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1 Sheriff; and

2 WHEREAS, Marlene Lantz enjoyed the investigative aspect of  
3 her job, and she worked tirelessly to uncover how deaths  
4 occurred and to find ways to prevent such tragedies in the  
5 future; she was proud of the positive working relationships she  
6 established with law enforcement officials, rescue and fire  
7 personnel, physicians, and funeral directors during her  
8 career; and

9 WHEREAS, Marlene Lantz used her training and experience to  
10 teach about the dangers of drugs and alcohol abuse at local  
11 schools and out-of-state colleges and universities; she  
12 conducted mock prom accident re-enactments at local high  
13 schools; she gave freely of her time to comfort the friends and  
14 family members of deceased; she kept in touch with many of them  
15 for years after the deaths of their loved ones; and

16 WHEREAS, Marlene Lantz loved to travel to Wisconsin or  
17 Southern Illinois to shop at antique stores and to find new and  
18 unusual treasures to add to her collections; she enjoyed  
19 reading and watching crime stories with her beloved cats, and  
20 most recently, adopted two kittens; she liked carpentry,  
21 repurposing old items, remodeling her home, and working in her  
22 yard; and

1           WHEREAS, Marlene Lantz was preceded in death by her father;  
2 and her stepfather, Vernon Wilson; and

3           WHEREAS, Marlene Lantz is survived by her mother; her  
4 sisters, Judith Kettmann, Karen (Peter VanTuyt) Wilson, Linda  
5 (Ray) White; her brother, Alan (Fay) Wilson; her nephews, Ben  
6 White and Matthew (Meghan Nelson) White; her niece, Hannah  
7 Wilson; and her great-niece, Penelope White; therefore, be it

8           RESOLVED, BY THE SENATE OF THE ONE HUNDREDTH GENERAL  
9 ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, that we mourn the passing of  
10 Marlene Ann Lantz and extend our sincere condolences to her  
11 family, friends, and all who knew and loved her; and be it  
12 further

13           RESOLVED, That a suitable copy of this resolution be  
14 presented to the family of Marlene Lantz as an expression of  
15 our deepest sympathy.