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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 Soledad "Shirley" Velasquez, 96, who passed away on February 9, 2015; and

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WHEREAS, Shirley Velasquez, was a pillar and inspiration of the Illinois Latino community, and the beloved wife of the late Arturo Velasquez, the wind beneath his wings for 72 years; and

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WHEREAS, The life partnership of Shirley and Arturo Velasquez began with a chance, love-at-first-sight meeting at a Chicago park, with an immediate, heartfelt, and binding declaration of love from Arturo leading to a storied marriage; and

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WHEREAS, Shirley Velasquez was a true matriarch, a mother, grandmother, great-grandmother, and great-great-grandmother, whose children are known for their good works and commitment to the Mexican community; and

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WHEREAS, Shirley Velasquez, an avid fan of the Chicago White Sox, once threw out a pitch to open a game; and

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WHEREAS, Shirley Velasquez was a founding member of Cordi Marian Auxiliary, Lady Commander of the Equestrian Order of the

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1 Holy Sepulchre of Jerusalem, and former member of the Azteca
2 Lions Club; and

3 WHEREAS, Shirley Velasquez is survived by her children,
4 Arthur Raymond (Joanne) Velasquez, Carmen Velasquez, Maria
5 Elena Hanson, and Edward (Marianne) Velasquez; her
6 grandchildren, Nannette (Jim) Zander, Renee (Jim) Togher,
7 Arthur Robert (Griselda) Velasquez, Suzanne (John) Sheehy,
8 Daniel Velasquez, Debra (Brad) Sasse, Dia (Gabriel) Pescetto,
9 Robyn (Mike) Blake, Edward (Beth) Velasquez, Jaime (Tom)
10 Darwin, and Janel (Scott) Mitchell; as well as many nieces and
11 nephews; she was a great-grandmother of 21 and
12 great-great-grandmother to one; sister to Rito, Manuel,
13 Angelo, and the late Leopoldo, Angelina, Joseph, Virginia, and
14 Raymond; therefore, be it

15 RESOLVED, BY THE SENATE OF THE NINETY-NINTH GENERAL
16 ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, that we mourn, along with
17 her family and friends, the passing of Soledad "Shirley"
18 VelAsquez; and be it further

19 RESOLVED, That a suitable copy of this resolution be
20 presented to the family of Soledad VelAsquez as an expression
21 of our sympathy.