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LRB104 15245 ECR 28395 r

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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 Betty Jean Odum of Anna, who passed away on September 1, 2025; and

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WHEREAS, Betty Odum, the daughter of Reverend Tracy T. and Sylvia McCord, was born in Harrisburg on November 27, 1927; she attended Shelbyville High School; she received a Bachelor of Science in Education with a minor in music from Olivet Nazarene College; she married James W. Walker in Roxana in 1945, and they had two children, James Tracy Walker and Jil Walker Tracy; she later married Dr. Don Odum, and they had one child, Matthew Odum; and

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WHEREAS, Betty Odum devoted her life to teaching, earning a Master of Science in Education from Southern Illinois University Carbondale; she taught English at Carbondale High School, where she also served as the faculty sponsor of the Dial yearbook for many years; after raising her children, she returned to teaching, dedicating herself to adult education well into her 80s; and

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WHEREAS, Betty Odum was a woman of deep faith and a gifted musician who served as a church pianist throughout her life, retiring from her role as pianist of the Anna Church of the

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1 Nazarene in her 90s; she taught adult Sunday school for
2 decades and shared her music with residents of The Voyages in
3 Anna; she was also devoted to worldwide mission work through
4 her church; and

5 WHEREAS, Betty Odum was known for her unwavering devotion,
6 her kindness, and her fierce love for her family; and

7 WHEREAS, Betty Odum was preceded in death by her parents;
8 her husband, Dr. Don Odum; and her son, James Tracy Walker; and

9 WHEREAS, Betty Odum is survived by her daughter, Jil
10 Walker Tracy; her son-in-law, Jim Tracy; her daughter-in-law,
11 Tamra Walker; nine grandchildren; and 11 great-grandchildren;
12 therefore, be it

13 RESOLVED, BY THE SENATE OF THE ONE HUNDRED FOURTH GENERAL
14 ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, that we mourn the passing of
15 Betty Jean Odum and extend our sincere condolences to her
16 family, friends, and all who knew and loved her; and be it
17 further

18 RESOLVED, That a suitable copy of this resolution be
19 presented to the family of Betty Odum as an expression of our
20 deepest sympathy.