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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 Dolores Moore Harlow "Dodie" Hirst of Bloomington, who passed away on October 25, 2018; and

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WHEREAS, Dolores Hirst was born in Wichita, Kansas to Roger Moore and Sudie Belle Stephens Harlow on May 26, 1930; she and her mother moved to Natchitoches, Louisiana for a brief time before returning to Wichita in 1940; she graduated from high school a year early and began taking courses at Wichita's Friends University in voice, speech, and dramatics; in high school and college, she often took the lead role in musicals; she married George William Hirst, and they moved to Chicago; and

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WHEREAS, Dolores Hirst and her family moved to Moline in 1950 and East Peoria in 1961; while in East Peoria, she was active in bridge groups, the Peoria Art Guild, and the Peoria Players; she began taking courses toward a master's degree in education at Bradley University in Peoria; in 1964, after a brief teaching stint in Peoria public schools, she began teaching in the East Peoria school system; she taught kindergarten at Lincoln and D.D. Shute elementary schools, then junior high school at East Peoria Central Junior High; she commuted to East Peoria for several years after the family

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1 moved to Wyoming, Illinois in 1971; and

2 WHEREAS, Upon retiring, Dolores Hirst went into business in
3 Wyoming as a florist; in 2010, she moved to Arizona with her
4 husband to be near their daughter, Lisa; after his passing, she
5 moved back to Wyoming to be near her friends and lived there
6 until 2015 when she moved to Bloomington; and

7 WHEREAS, Dolores Hirst took many roles in her church as a
8 musician and Sunday school teacher; she was always interested
9 in the arts, supported social justice issues, and volunteered
10 at the Resource House in Wyoming; in 2016, she won the Advocate
11 of the Year Award from the LIFE Center for Independent Living
12 in McLean County for her work with people with disabilities;
13 and

14 WHEREAS, Dolores Hirst loved to play bridge and was a
15 fanatical cryptquote and crossword puzzler; she had a
16 marvelous coloratura voice, which she shared with the churches
17 and elsewhere on special occasions; most memorable was her
18 rendition of O Holy Night, which she sang sometimes as a duet
19 with her sister-in-law, Eva Hirst, in many of the Christmas
20 celebrations; and

21 WHEREAS, Dolores Hirst was preceded in death by her
22 parents; her husband, Rev. George Hirst; and her sister-in-law,

1 Eva Hirst; and

2 WHEREAS, Dolores Hirst is survived by her children, Stephen
3 (Kristin), Kris (Ed) Nellis, Lisa (Dan) Roger, and David
4 (Marcia); her brother-in-law, Allen; her grandchildren, Amy,
5 Matthew, Kate, Aaron, Mason, and Rachel; her
6 great-grandchildren, Augustine, Georgia, June, and Nora;
7 dozens of cousins, nieces, and nephews; and numerous friends,
8 former students, and colleagues from her teaching days;
9 therefore, be it

10 RESOLVED, BY THE SENATE OF THE ONE HUNDREDTH GENERAL
11 ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, that we mourn the passing of
12 Dolores Moore Harlow "Dodie" Hirst and extend our sincere
13 condolences to her family, friends, and all who knew and loved
14 her; and be it further

15 RESOLVED, That a suitable copy of this resolution be
16 presented to the family of Dolores Hirst as an expression of
17 our deepest sympathy.