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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 Abigail Ellen "Abby" Ohl of Tinley Park, who passed away on October 12, 2018; and

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WHEREAS, Abby Ohl was born in Harvey to Dennis and Susan (Hallahan) Ohl on May 15, 1993; she was the youngest of three children; she was a proud graduate of St. George Elementary School and Victor J. Andrew High School; in grade school, she was a member of the Kindness Club, played the trumpet in the school band, and was a devoted altar server; she was a member of the girls' basketball team and the girls' volleyball team; she was a dedicated Brownie and Girl Scout and was a member of the Jr. National Honor Society; while a student at Andrew High School, she was a member of the Student Council, was crowned the Freshman Homecoming Princess, and played on the girls' tennis team and the girls' badminton team; she was a member of the cast of the high school Variety Show and the National Honor Society; she was involved as a Senior Teaching Intern, under the guidance of a Special Education teacher in an elementary school setting; during high school and college, she worked at the Flossmoor County Club, where she was a shack shop cook, a waitress at the pool, and served at weddings and special events; and

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1           WHEREAS, Abby Ohl earned her Bachelor of Science in  
2 Education with a dual certification in Special Education (K-12)  
3 and Elementary Education (K-9) from Eastern Illinois  
4 University; as a student at Eastern, she completed 400 hours of  
5 field work experience before student teaching and  
6 enthusiastically participated in Best Buddies, where she was  
7 paired with an adult with special needs; she was a member of  
8 the National Society of Collegiate Scholars (NSCS) and a member  
9 of the Student Council for Exceptional Children (SCEC), where  
10 she served as president; she was eagerly involved in Special  
11 Olympics and the annual Polar Plunge; and

12           WHEREAS, Abby Ohl was a dedicated and passionate special  
13 education teacher at Grissom Middle School in Kirby School  
14 District 140; she was known as a ray of sunshine whose love,  
15 laughter, and compassion touched many lives; currently, she was  
16 a student at Olivet Nazarene University, where she was pursuing  
17 a master's degree in curriculum and instruction; and

18           WHEREAS, Abby Ohl will be forever remembered as a vibrant  
19 and dedicated educator whose warmth, creativity, and patience  
20 changed lives; as a tutor, she worked with individual students  
21 before and after school, engaging and motivating each child to  
22 reach his or her academic potential; as a Student Council  
23 sponsor, she inspired her students to contribute to their  
24 community through service and leadership, organizing many

1 charitable fundraisers, food and clothing drives, and student  
2 social activities; and

3 WHEREAS, At a very early age, Abby Ohl may not have known  
4 the word "compassion," but she lived it; when she was just four  
5 years old, she walked over to her great-grandma Catherine who  
6 was having a sad day, stood in front of her, held both of her  
7 hands, and began to sing, "You Are My Sunshine"; and

8 WHEREAS, Abby Ohl was a devoted and loving daughter,  
9 sister, granddaughter, niece, cousin, and friend; she had a  
10 beautiful soul, a zest for life, a sense of adventure, a quick  
11 wit, a compassionate nature, and a passion for snack food; and

12 WHEREAS, Abby Ohl was preceded in death by her brother,  
13 Taylor Ohl; and her grandparents, Dennis Hallahan and Ernest  
14 and Pauline Ohl; and

15 WHEREAS, Abby Ohl is survived by her parents, Dennis and  
16 Susan Ohl; her brother, Thomas Ohl, USMC; her grandmother,  
17 Ellen Hallahan; and her many aunts, uncles, cousins, and  
18 friends; therefore, be it

19 RESOLVED, BY THE SENATE OF THE ONE HUNDRED FIRST GENERAL  
20 ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, that we mourn the passing of  
21 Abigail Ellen "Abby" Ohl and extend our sincere condolences to

1 her family, friends, and all who knew and loved her; and be it  
2 further

3       RESOLVED, That a suitable copy of this resolution be  
4 presented to the family of Abby Ohl as an expression of our  
5 deepest sympathy.