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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 Theo Jean Kenyon of Peoria, who passed away on November 19, 2021; and

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WHEREAS, Theo Kenyon was born in Peoria to Theo (Younglove) and Eugene Ahrends on September 5, 1922; she graduated from Peoria High School and Northwestern University, where she was the first woman editor of the Daily Northwestern and was inducted into Phi Beta Kappa, the national honor society; she married Leslie H. Kenyon on October 23, 1954; and

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WHEREAS, Theo Kenyon joined the Peoria Journal Star in 1944 and worked there until 2010 as a reporter, feature writer, and arts critic; her decades-long career at the Journal Star included press coverage of presidential candidates such as Dwight Eisenhower, John F. Kennedy, and Governor Adlai Stevenson II; she also reviewed plays, concerts, and art shows; and

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WHEREAS, Theo Kenyon loved The New Yorker magazine and taught classes on it for the Osher Lifelong Learning Institute at Bradley University; and

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WHEREAS, Theo Kenyon was a charter member and twice

1 president of the Peoria Newspaper Guild and walked the picket
2 line in its strike to acquire health care coverage for its
3 members; she supported the Central Illinois Landmarks
4 Foundation, the Heartland Festival Orchestra, the Peoria
5 Symphony Orchestra, the Lakeview Museum, and the Peoria Art
6 Guild; she was a member of the Universalist Unitarian Church;
7 and

8 WHEREAS, Theo Kenyon was a generous person and gave
9 wonderful Christmas parties and gifts to friends; she could be
10 counted on to supply treats for any party she attended; she
11 worked with her husband on historic preservation and helped to
12 save The Grand Army of the Republic Hall; in 2015, she donated
13 the funds for the hall's elevator in his honor; and

14 WHEREAS, Theo Kenyon was preceded in death by her husband,
15 Leslie; and

16 WHEREAS, Theo Kenyon is survived by several cousins;
17 therefore, be it

18 RESOLVED, BY THE SENATE OF THE ONE HUNDRED SECOND GENERAL
19 ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, that we mourn the passing of
20 Theo Jean Kenyon and extend our sincere condolences to her
21 family, friends, and all who knew and loved her; and be it
22 further

1 RESOLVED, That a suitable copy of this resolution be
2 presented to the family of Theo Kenyon as an expression of our
3 deepest sympathy.