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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 Helen Efinger Helgren of Gurnee, who passed away on January 8, 2011; and

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WHEREAS, Helen Helgren was born on September 25, 1924, in Waukegan; her parents were Raymond "Doc" and Kathleen (O'Brien) Efinger; she married her loving husband, Preston Helgren, on April 11, 1953; she lived in the Waukegan area all her life; and

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WHEREAS, Helen Helgren attended Immaculate Conception and Holy Family Grade Schools, as well as Lake Forest High School; she graduated from Holy Child High School at the age of 17; and

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WHEREAS, Helen Helgren attended the College of St. Theresa in Winona, Minnesota for one year; she subsequently earned her bachelor's degree in chemistry at Marquette University in 1950; she also earned a teaching certificate; and

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WHEREAS, Helen Helgren worked at many organizations throughout her life; during college, she worked in the Disbursing Office at the Great Lakes Naval Base and in the analytical laboratory at Fansteel Metallurgical; after graduation, she began working at Abbott Laboratories, where she

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1 dreamed of working as a chemist; she worked as a long-time
2 substitute teacher at Gurnee Grade School, Viking Junior High,
3 and Warren Township High School; she also had her own business
4 making flower arrangements and other designs; and

5 WHEREAS, Helen Helgren was a faithful member of the St.
6 Dismas Church in Waukegan, the League of Women Voters, the
7 Immaculate Conception (Waukegan) Altar and Rosary Society, the
8 Lake County Governmental Study Commission, the Waukegan Garden
9 Club (Douglas Chapter), the Ex Libris Book Club, the Herb
10 Society, the 4H Youth Council, and the Illinois Dunesland
11 Preservation Society; and

12 WHEREAS, Helen Helgren and her husband were long-time
13 faithful volunteers at the Lake County Museum and were
14 instrumental in the museum's collection being transferred
15 intact from private ownership to the people of Lake County; she
16 worked tirelessly to bring a new library to Waukegan and to
17 preserve the ravine known as Warbler Glen in Bowen Park; she
18 was a member and volunteer at the American Cancer Society; she
19 was a member and leader of numerous conservation projects in
20 Lake County; she also had a long time interest in prairies,
21 natural areas, and their conservation, leading her to do
22 research on prairie seed germination methods for the Lake
23 County Forest Preserve District; and

1 WHEREAS, Helen Helgren was well known among her peers as an
2 excellent seamstress; she also enjoyed painting watercolors,
3 and she was a Master Gardener; and

4 WHEREAS, Helen Helgren was preceded in death by her
5 parents; her sisters, Catherine Dietmeyer, Rita Hyland, and
6 Mary June Fitzgerald; her sister-in-law, Mary Helgren Johnson;
7 and her treasured niece, Susan Johnson; and

8 WHEREAS, Helen Helgren is survived by her husband; her son,
9 Dan (Lizzy) Helgren; her step-grandchildren, Zachary, Noah,
10 and Madeline Rose; her daughter, Mary Catherine Helgren
11 (Richard Radek); her many nieces and nephews; and her many
12 grand-nieces and grand-nephews; therefore, be it

13 RESOLVED, BY THE SENATE OF THE NINETY-SEVENTH GENERAL
14 ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, that we mourn, along with
15 her family and friends, the passing of Helen Efinger Helgren;
16 and be it further

17 RESOLVED, That a suitable copy of this resolution be
18 presented to the family of Helen Helgren as an expression of
19 our sympathy.