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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 our friend and former colleague, Dawn Clark Netsch, who passed away on March 5, 2013; and

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WHEREAS, Dawn Clark Netsch was born on September 16, 1926, in Cincinnati, Ohio; after attending public schools throughout the Depression and World War II, she graduated from Northwestern University in 1948 and subsequently enrolled in the University's law school, where she graduated first in her class in 1952; and

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WHEREAS, Dawn Clark Netsch dedicated herself to a lifetime of service to the people of the State of Illinois and the nation at large; after working for Adlai Stevenson during his 1952 presidential campaign, she worked with a Washington, D.C. law firm for 2 years before returning to Chicago, where she served as a clerk for Judge Julius Hoffman; she again worked for Stevenson's presidential campaign in 1956, and afterwards became an active member of the Committee on Illinois Government, a group of independent Democrats that sought to carry on Stevenson's legacy; she then worked for 4 years in a Chicago law firm before beginning her service as an assistant to Governor Otto Kerner from 1961 to 1965; in 1965, she joined the Northwestern University School of Law faculty, becoming one

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1 of the first group of women law professors in the United
2 States; in 1969, she was elected as a delegate to the Illinois
3 Constitutional Convention; and

4 WHEREAS, In 1972, Dawn Clark Netsch was elected to serve as
5 State Senator; she served in the Senate until 1991 and quickly
6 became one of the most prominent members of the body; during
7 her tenure, she served as a stalwart champion of numerous
8 issues, including the Equal Rights Amendment, ethics reform,
9 the merit selection of State judges, the reform of State
10 revenue and finance, and many issues related to gender
11 equality; and

12 WHEREAS, In 1990, Dawn Clark Netsch was elected to serve as
13 the Illinois State Comptroller, where she served with integrity
14 and dedication during a time of severe budget constraints in
15 the State and achieved the distinction of being the first woman
16 elected to a State constitutional executive office in Illinois;
17 in 1994, she ran against Governor Jim Edgar for the
18 governorship, once again making history as the first woman to
19 run for governor of Illinois as the candidate of a major
20 political party; during the election, she advocated for a raise
21 in the State income tax coupled with a decrease in individual
22 property taxes in order to restore fiscal health to the State's
23 school system; following her defeat in the gubernatorial
24 election, she began serving on the faculty of the Northwestern

1 University School of Law; despite her exit from State politics,
2 she remained involved in a variety of worthwhile causes,
3 including Chicago Mayor Rahm Emanuel's Ethics Reform Task
4 Force, and gained a great and deserved reputation as one of the
5 State's most respected elder statesmen; and

6 WHEREAS, Dawn Clark Netsch was preceded in death by her
7 dear husband, Walter Netsch; and

8 WHEREAS, Dawn Clark Netsch's legacy of honest governance
9 and great dignity and integrity will be dearly missed by the
10 members of this body, the people of the State of Illinois, and
11 her friends and admirers throughout the nation; therefore, be
12 it

13 RESOLVED, BY THE SENATE OF THE NINETY-EIGHTH GENERAL
14 ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, that we mourn, along with
15 her family and friends, the passing of our friend and
16 colleague, Dawn Clark Netsch; and be it further

17 RESOLVED, That a suitable copy of this resolution be
18 presented to the family of Dawn Clark Netsch as an expression
19 of our sympathy and great respect for Dawn Clark Netsch's life
20 and legacy.