

## 1 SENATE RESOLUTION

2 WHEREAS, The members of the Illinois Senate are saddened  
3 to learn of the death Margaret Estella Coombs, formerly of  
4 Winfield, who passed away February 2, 2002; and

5 WHEREAS, Mrs. Coombs was born August 28, 1922, in  
6 Chicago, the daughter of Jacob and Stella Wolter; and

7 WHEREAS, Mrs. Coombs grew up in Chicago and attended  
8 local schools; she was very involved in her parish, St.  
9 Augustine's; and

10 WHEREAS, Margaret Coombs was widely known for her  
11 beautiful operatic voice, singing at church, at area events  
12 and on the Chicago stage; she declined an an invitation to  
13 audition for the New York Metropolitan Opera so that she  
14 could stay home and raise her family; and

15 WHEREAS, Mrs. Coombs married her husband, Robert, on  
16 December 26, 1942; they lived in Chicago for the birth of  
17 their first three children, later moving to Batavia, where  
18 two more children followed; in 1957, the family moved to  
19 Winfield, where they lived for 40 years; and

20 WHEREAS, Mrs. Coombs was a co-founder of the first  
21 Winfield Public Library and was active in St. John the  
22 Baptist parish; she served as "First Lady of Winfield" when  
23 Mr. Coombs was elected president of Winfield for two terms,  
24 beginning in 1963; they built a summer home in Wisconsin in  
25 1979 and moved there permanently in 1994; they recently  
26 celebrated their 59th wedding anniversary; and

27 WHEREAS, Mrs. Coombs and her husband were the founders of  
28 the first Illinois Chapter of Parents of Murdered Children  
29 following the murder of their youngest son in 1981; through  
30 1986, when they retired as group leaders, they held monthly  
31 meetings in their home for parents, siblings and other family

1 members; and

2 WHEREAS, Margaret Coombs was cherished for her warmth and  
3 tenderness toward all who crossed her threshold; she and  
4 Robert were appointed by Illinois Attorney General Neil  
5 Hartigan to serve on the state's first victims' rights task  
6 force and were instrumental in the development of the first  
7 victims' rights law in Illinois; they were also presented the  
8 Lisa Hullinger Award by the national office of Parents of  
9 Murdered Children for their service toward victim survivors  
10 and also received a special award from the Mayor of Chicago  
11 for their work on behalf of victims; and

12 WHEREAS, Mrs. Coombs's full-time job was making a loving  
13 home for her husband and children; she was a wonderful cook  
14 and an accomplished seamstress who especially loved to quilt;  
15 Margaret Coombs carried her love of music throughout her  
16 life; she was an avid reader who taught her children to love  
17 books and owned hundreds of volumes; and

18 WHEREAS, Mrs. Coombs had many friends who sought her out  
19 for her wonderful ability to listen, comfort, and offer sound  
20 advice; she was quick to laugh and her warm, loving nature  
21 was as easy to spot as the twinkle in her eye; and

22 WHEREAS, Margaret Estella Coombs will be deeply missed by  
23 all those who knew her and loved her, especially by her  
24 husband, Robert; her children, Carolyn Wines, Mary-Ellen  
25 Coombs, Robert J. Coombs and Ralph (Kathryn) Coombs; her  
26 grandchildren, Christine (Christopher) Borseau, Patricia  
27 (James) Bockeloh, Matthew (Jennifer) Wines, Christopher  
28 (Jennifer) Coombs, Christy Coombs, and Sarah Coombs; her  
29 great-grandchildren, Jason, Brandon, Chelsea, Kolten, and  
30 Brayden; and a family of friends; therefore, be it

31 RESOLVED, BY THE SENATE OF THE NINETY-SECOND GENERAL  
32 ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, that we mourn, along with

1 her family and friends, the death of Margaret Estella Coombs;  
2 and be it further

3 RESOLVED, That a suitable copy of this resolution be  
4 presented to her husband, Robert Coombs.