

**SENATE
STATE OF MINNESOTA
NINETY-FOURTH SESSION**

S.R. No. 56

(SENATE AUTHORS: NELSON)

DATE
02/19/2026

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Introduction
Referred to Rules and Administration

OFFICIAL STATUS

A Senate resolution

honoring Helen Marjorie Spaid Leque on reaching her 104th birthday.

WHEREAS, Helen Marjorie Spaid Leque was born on December 25, 1921, in Ogden, Utah. Her family moved to Minnesota when her dad was told there was some good farm land in northern Minnesota; and

WHEREAS, Helen graduated from Aitkin High School and was studying to be a nurse when World War II began. She thought that she could be more helpful in war efforts if she moved to California. She moved to Burbank, California to work on the B-17 Flying Fortress and, since she was small, she riveted the inner wing of the plane; and

WHEREAS, after recovering at home from an injury, Helen continued her work in Ogden, Utah, where she was born. She supported the war by performing a variety of jobs, including assembling rifles, repairing planes, and working in the parts depot; and

WHEREAS, Helen married her husband, Merlin, who was from Kasson, Minnesota, in Ogden on February 24, 1945. She attributes her longevity to her many years as a farmer's wife; and

WHEREAS, Helen is one of the few living "Rosie the Riveter" workers left from World War II and has talked to many sixth-graders and Lions Clubs in southern Minnesota about her experience. She has been a member of the American Legion auxiliary for 62 years; and

WHEREAS, Helen loves shopping at garage sales and still holds garage sales herself. She also loves flea markets and just being around people; and

WHEREAS, Helen and Merlin, who passed away in 2003, had four children: her son Lynn, who passed away in 1977; her daughter Diane who lives with her husband, Wendell Engelstad, in Owatonna, Minnesota; her son Larry, who lives in Bricelyn, Minnesota; and her daughter Karen who lives with her husband, Bob Tracy, in Kasson. Helen also has four grandchildren and six great-grandchildren; and

WHEREAS, Helen will turn 104 on December 25, 2025; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Senate of the State of Minnesota that it congratulates Helen Marjorie Spaid Leqve on her 104th birthday and commends her for her many years of outstanding service to her country.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Secretary of the Senate is directed to prepare an enrolled copy of this resolution, to be authenticated by the Secretary's signature and that of the Chair of the Senate Rules and Administration Committee, and transmit it to Helen Marjorie Spaid Leqve.

Tom Bottern
Secretary of the Senate

Erin P. Murphy
Chair, Senate Committee on
Rules and Administration

Carla J. Nelson
State Senator, District 24