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HOUSE RESOLUTION

2           WHEREAS, The members of the Illinois House of  
3 Representatives are pleased to remember Mary Elizabeth Pierce  
4 for her many years of dedicated service to her community,  
5 family, and friends; and

6           WHEREAS, Mary Elizabeth Pierce was born December 4, 1922,  
7 in Chicago; she was the daughter of Henry Harris and Eva Irene  
8 Hanes Pierce; in 1928, her family relocated to Richton Park,  
9 when the Illinois Central was electrified and her father became  
10 responsible for maintaining the switches; she enjoyed relating  
11 that, when her family moved to town, the town's population sign  
12 read "50"; and

13           WHEREAS, Mary Elizabeth Pierce's education started in a  
14 one-room schoolhouse on Sauk Trail, just east of the IC tracks;  
15 she attended Matteson High School for 3 years, and graduated  
16 from Thornton High School; she later attended Chicago Teachers  
17 College and, once certified in education, started teaching in  
18 1944 in a one-room schoolhouse in Green Garden Township, west  
19 of Monee; and

20           WHEREAS, In 1947, Mary Elizabeth Pierce taught in the  
21 Peotone Elementary School; in 1951, she was employed by Steger  
22 Central Junior High, where she taught for 28 years; she retired

1 from teaching in 1979 after being diagnosed with cancer; and

2 WHEREAS, Mary Elizabeth Pierce worked as public relations  
3 coordinator at Steger Central for 26 years; she was an active  
4 member of the Beta Beta chapter of Delta Kappa Gamma, an  
5 educational service sorority, and a lifelong member of the  
6 Illinois Education Association and the National Educational  
7 Association; and

8 WHEREAS, In 1991, Mary Elizabeth Pierce was elected village  
9 clerk of Richton Park; she was a founding member of the Friends  
10 of the Library and co-chair of Richton Park's Bicentennial  
11 Committee; she was a co-author of "The History of the Village  
12 of Richton Park, Illinois, 75th Anniversary, 1926-2001" and was  
13 considered the historian for Richton Park who gladly gave  
14 presentations on the development of her community; she served  
15 on the Human Relations Commission, the Senior Citizen  
16 Commission, the Bill Fleming Scholarship Committee, and was an  
17 ardent promoter of her hometown; she was also an avid Chicago  
18 White Sox fan; and

19 WHEREAS, Mary Elizabeth Pierce was preceded in death by her  
20 parents; her brothers; John, Edward, Henry Jr. (Junie), and  
21 David; her sister, Nancy Graham; and her nephews, James Graham,  
22 Lee Graham, and Robert Pierce, Jr.; and

1           WHEREAS, Mary Elizabeth Pierce is survived by her brothers,  
2 Robert (Sherryl) Pierce and Roy Pierce; her sisters-in-law,  
3 Billie Bednarczyk and Kathleen Pierce; her several nieces and  
4 nephews; and her special friends, Jerry and Kathy Corsaro and  
5 Tom and Barb Martin; she donated her body to the Anatomical  
6 Gift Association of Illinois; and

7           WHEREAS, Mary Elizabeth Pierce never married and had no  
8 biological children of her own, but her love of teaching filled  
9 her life with countless hours of joy and happiness; she will be  
10 missed by those who knew and loved her; therefore, be it

11           RESOLVED, BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE  
12 NINETY-SEVENTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, that  
13 we mourn the passing of Mary Elizabeth Pierce and remember her  
14 for her many years of dedicated service to her community,  
15 family, and friends; and be it further

16           RESOLVED, That a suitable copy of this resolution be  
17 presented to the family of Mary Elizabeth Pierce as a symbol of  
18 our esteem and respect.