



HR0078

LRB101 08178 ALS 53244 r

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HOUSE RESOLUTION

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WHEREAS, The members of the Illinois House of Representatives are saddened to learn of the death of Lynda DeLaforge of Chicago, who passed away on January 12, 2019; and

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WHEREAS, Lynda DeLaforge was born in Chicago to James and June DeLaforge on February 18, 1958; she was raised in Franklin Park; her father was a tuck pointer and a village firefighter, and her mother was employed in the business office of a local paper company; she graduated from Rockford College in 1980, where she majored in theater and was active in local community productions; in 1985, she married Hans Hintzen, and they settled in Chicago's Edgewater neighborhood; they later divorced; and

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WHEREAS, Lynda DeLaforge was working as an actress and looking for part-time work when she took a job fundraising for the relatively new Illinois Public Action Council; effective as a door-to-door canvasser and recruiter, she soon became the group's Rockford office manager and helped organize a voter registration drive leading up to the 1984 election; she then became the group's statewide canvass manager and helped set up similar canvass operations in other states; she also took an increasing role in the organization's issue work, especially around health policy and consumer protection; she was

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1 simultaneously involved in many progressive political  
2 campaigns and helped elect Paul Simon to the U.S. Senate in  
3 1984, reelect Mayor Harold Washington in 1987, and send Jan  
4 Schakowsky to the Illinois House of Representatives in 1990;  
5 after the Illinois Public Action Council closed in 1997, she  
6 became the associate director of the newly constituted Citizen  
7 Action/Illinois; three years later she became its co-director,  
8 a position she held until her death; and

9 WHEREAS, Over the past two decades, Lynda DeLaforge was  
10 the day-to-day driving force behind Citizen Action/Illinois  
11 and its work; she oversaw its finances while supervising and  
12 mentoring young staff members; she was a regular presence at  
13 Chicago City Hall and the Cook County Building, as well as in  
14 Springfield and in Washington, where she served on the board of  
15 Citizen Action's national federation; she was the chief  
16 strategist for many of the organization's biggest policy  
17 battles, including regulating predatory payday loans, ensuring  
18 food safety, opposing Social Security privatization, winning  
19 marriage equality, and ensuring the rights of consumers to  
20 affordable energy and health insurance; she was also at the  
21 helm of the Citizen Action's electoral efforts that registered  
22 new voters, turned out the vote, and rallied other progressives  
23 behind Barack Obama's run for the U.S. Senate in 2004; her  
24 efforts also helped elect many other progressive candidates,  
25 including Governor JB Pritzker; and

1           WHEREAS, Lynda DeLaforge had a wide variety of other  
2 interests; she was passionate about her garden, enjoyed combing  
3 estate sales for vintage clothing and jewelry, and traveled  
4 widely, frequently visiting her sister in Italy, and  
5 corresponding with distant relations in France; and

6           WHEREAS, Lynda DeLaforge is survived by her life partner,  
7 Brian Reizfeld; her mother, June Kaczur-Tate; her daughter,  
8 Katy; her son, Jordan; and her sister, Laura; therefore, be it

9           RESOLVED, BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE  
10 HUNDRED FIRST GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, that  
11 we mourn the passing of Lynda DeLaforge and extend our sincere  
12 condolences to her family, friends, and all who knew and loved  
13 her; and be it further

14           RESOLVED, That a suitable copy of this resolution be  
15 presented to the family of Lynda DeLaforge as an expression of  
16 our deepest sympathy.