



HR0085

LRB102 16100 LAW 21474 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 Mary Ellen Harkrader of Peoria, who passed away on January 30,2021; and

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WHEREAS, Mary Harkrader graduated from Pontiac High School and the St. Francis School of Nursing; she married Alan D. Harkrader Jr.; and

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WHEREAS, Mary Harkrader worked as a registered nurse in pediatrics at the St. Francis School of Nursing before raising her family in Peoria; and

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WHEREAS, Mary Harkrader became a passionate public servant, serving on the Tri-County Regional Planning Commission and the Peoria County Board; she served as the Peoria County Clerk for three terms and as an officer of the National Association of County Officials; she ran the Peoria office of the U.S. Census Bureau for the census count in 1980; she was a member of the League of Women Voters and a delegate to the Democratic National Convention in 1984; and

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WHEREAS, Mary Harkrader was an environmental advocate; she was a member of the Heart of Illinois Sierra Club and

1 co-founder of Coenact, a recycling organization in the 1960s;
2 she was a reading volunteer at Thomas Jefferson Elementary
3 School and a member of St. Philomena's Catholic Church; and

4 WHEREAS, Mary Harkrader loved people and cultures, and she
5 was interested in scientific research; alongside her husband,
6 she traveled the world after their retirement, and they lived
7 happily at the Christian Buehler Home in Peoria; she enjoyed
8 telling stories about her travels and experiences in the world
9 of politics; she will be remembered for her devotion to her
10 family; and

11 WHEREAS, Mary Harkrader was preceded in death by her
12 parents, Lawrence and Marcella Wheeler, and her siblings,
13 Margaret and Larry; and

14 WHEREAS, Mary Harkrader is survived by her husband of 66
15 years, Alan D. Harkrader Jr.; her children, Alan Harkrader
16 (Kate Marsland), Mark Harkrader (Jodi Murphy), and Leslye
17 Fredrich (Rosca Toulouse); her grandson, Matthew Harkrader;
18 and her brother, Donald Wheeler (Theresa); therefore, be it

19 RESOLVED, BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE
20 HUNDRED SECOND GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, that
21 we mourn the passing of Mary Ellen Harkrader and extend our
22 sincere condolences to her family, friends, and all who knew

1 and loved her; and be it further

2 RESOLVED, That a suitable copy of this resolution be
3 presented to the family of Mary Harkrader as an expression of
4 our deepest sympathy.