



HR0336

LRB102 18574 MST 26870 r

1

HOUSE RESOLUTION

2 WHEREAS, The members of the Illinois House of
3 Representatives are saddened to learn of the death of Corinne
4 (Gieseke) Wood, the 44th Lieutenant Governor of Illinois, who
5 passed away on May 18, 2021 in the presence of her family; and

6 WHEREAS, Lt. Gov. Wood was born in Barrington on May 28,
7 1954; and

8 WHEREAS, Lt. Gov. Wood attended the University of Illinois
9 at Urbana-Champaign, where she was selected to the academic
10 honor society, Phi Beta Kappa; she graduated from the Loyola
11 University School of Law and was admitted to the Illinois bar;
12 and

13 WHEREAS, Lt. Gov. Wood was named general counsel to the
14 Illinois Commissioner of Banks and Trusts, the agency that at
15 that time oversaw and supervised the State-chartered banks and
16 trust companies of Illinois; in this role, she developed her
17 understanding of the financial affairs of Illinois' private
18 sector; and

19 WHEREAS, Lt. Gov. Wood and her family lived in Lake
20 Forest, and her neighbors selected her to fill a growing
21 number of community leadership roles and positions; and

1 WHEREAS, As a community leader, Lt. Gov. Wood sought
2 election to the Illinois House of Representatives for the 59th
3 District; she was elected in November 1996 and served a single
4 term before moving on to statewide office; and

5 WHEREAS, Lt. Gov. Wood was already a cancer survivor
6 during her successful run on the Republican Party ticket for
7 statewide office in 1998, in which she won election as the
8 first female Lieutenant Governor of Illinois; and

9 WHEREAS, Lt. Gov. Wood's tireless campaigning won admirers
10 in both parties, and in November 1998, after enjoying a
11 winning ticket with Governor-elect George Ryan, she swung into
12 action as a champion of professional women and their
13 aspirations; and

14 WHEREAS, Lt. Gov. Wood is credited as being one of the
15 first Illinois lieutenant governors to get a routine seat at
16 the table in high-level policy discussions; her identity as a
17 survivor made her a front row observer of the inadequacies in
18 Illinois' responses to cancer, including chronic cancer and
19 the lives and dreams of people in remission; and

20 WHEREAS, Lt. Gov. Wood, along with her team of advocates,
21 stabilized the status of the income tax checkoff for breast,

1 cervical, and ovarian cancer research on Illinois income tax
2 forms; the Penny Severns Breast, Cervical and Ovarian Cancer
3 Research Fund provides annual grants, disbursed by the
4 Illinois Department of Public Health, to a variety of
5 institutions engaged in cutting-edge research into these
6 subsets of deadly disease; and

7 WHEREAS, The name of the fund, the Penny Severns Breast,
8 Cervical and Ovarian Cancer Research Fund, commemorates the
9 bipartisan nature of the fight against cancer; it is named to
10 celebrate the life of a former Illinois General Assembly
11 colleague of Lt. Gov. Wood, a Democrat, who also courageously
12 battled cancer while serving as a lawmaker; and

13 WHEREAS, Lt. Gov. Wood left office in 2003 and returned to
14 the private sector, having developed lasting friendships in
15 both political parties; and

16 WHEREAS, Lt. Gov. Wood's cancer returned in 2006, and she
17 fought it courageously for 15 years; and

18 WHEREAS, Lt. Gov. Wood, despite her health challenges,
19 continued and redoubled her fight for reforms to the process
20 Illinois uses every 10 years to redistrict seats in the U.S.
21 Congress and in the Illinois General Assembly; and

1 WHEREAS, Lt. Gov. Wood, upon her passing, received praise
2 from members of both parties as a pioneer for Illinois women in
3 statewide elected office and a woman of great personal
4 courage; therefore, be it

5 RESOLVED, BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE
6 HUNDRED SECOND GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, that
7 we honor the memory of and celebrate the life of Corinne Wood,
8 the 44th Lieutenant Governor of Illinois, a pioneer both
9 professionally and in government; and be it further

10 RESOLVED, That suitable copies of this resolution be
11 presented to Lt. Gov. Wood's husband, Paul Wood, and to her
12 three children, Ashley, Brandon, and Courtney.