



HR0755

LRB102 26840 LAW 37874 r

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HOUSE RESOLUTION

2 WHEREAS, As the month of March is designated Women's
3 History Month, the members of the Illinois House of
4 Representatives wish to highlight the contributions of women
5 in our State; and

6 WHEREAS, Caroline Martin Mitchell was an astute and
7 successful businesswoman in the late 19th and early 20th
8 centuries whose contributions helped make the City of
9 Naperville into the thriving community it is today; and

10 WHEREAS, Caroline Martin Mitchell ran her family's
11 business, the Naperville Tile and Brick Works, which was one
12 of the most successful construction companies in the region;
13 she led the male-dominated business at a time when it was
14 considered unconventional for a woman to do so; and

15 WHEREAS, Caroline Martin Mitchell, as the last of her
16 descendants, reflected on what her family had built and their
17 contributions to the progress her community had seen during
18 her lifetime and decided to create a living legacy, which has
19 lived on, thrived, and expanded well into the 21st century;
20 and

21 WHEREAS, Through a perpetual charitable trust, Caroline

1 Martin Mitchell appointed the City of Naperville as the
2 trustee of her family's 212-acre estate; she outlined the
3 terms and conditions to ensure that her land would be an
4 ever-evolving legacy to the Martin family by securing her home
5 as a museum and her orchards as a place to gather her community
6 and by dedicating the remaining acreage to the public good,
7 stipulating that her lands be used to fund the museum when
8 necessary; and

9 WHEREAS, Today, Caroline Martin Mitchell's former estate
10 is home to Naperville Central High School, Rotary Hill, Knoch
11 Park, the Naperville Garden Plots, the Von Oven Scout
12 Reservation, Sportsman's Park, portions of Edwards Hospital,
13 Linden Oaks, the Naperville Cemetery, and more; and

14 WHEREAS, Caroline Martin Mitchell's vision for a living
15 legacy is responsible for the creation of the Naper
16 Settlement, a museum that consists of her former home and its
17 surrounding orchards; and

18 WHEREAS, The Naper Settlement is a 13-acre, nationally
19 accredited outdoor history museum and community space that
20 connects visitors to the past while inspiring them to see
21 their role in the future; the museum hosts award-winning
22 exhibits, events, and educational programs for learners of all
23 ages; therefore, be it

1 RESOLVED, BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE
2 HUNDRED SECOND GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, that
3 we recognize Caroline Martin Mitchell for her many
4 contributions to the Naperville community and the State of
5 Illinois; and be it further

6 RESOLVED, That suitable copies of this resolution be
7 presented to the City of Naperville and the Naper Settlement
8 as an expression of our esteem and respect.