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LRB102 19955 LAW 28734 r

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SENATE RESOLUTION

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WHEREAS, The members of the Illinois Senate are saddened to learn of the death of Esther R. Cohen of Peoria, who passed away on August 14, 2021; and

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WHEREAS, Esther Cohen was born to Solomon Rotenberg and Anne Sokol Rotenberg on September 28, 1930; she attended high school in Newton, Massachusetts; she earned her degree in Art History from Smith College in 1952; she was among the first 50 women to graduate from Harvard Business School in 1953; she married Robert Cohen in 1956, and they moved to Peoria with their daughter, Sheryl, in 1958; and

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WHEREAS, After her father's unexpected death, Esther Cohen ran her father's real estate property management business in Boston in the 1950s; and

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WHEREAS, After she moved to Peoria, Esther Cohen began a lifetime of tireless contributions to art and culture in Peoria; she created and chaired the Peoria Civic Opera, later Opera Illinois, bringing world-class opera to Peoria for decades; she served on the boards of Opera Guild International, the Illinois Arts Alliance, Eureka College, Heartland Festival Orchestra, and The Peoria Women's Club; she chaired the Peoria Art Guild and the Fine Art Fair; she served

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1 as chair of the Peoria Symphony Orchestra, where she created  
2 the then-largest annual fundraiser, Hammerama; she also served  
3 as the president of the YWCA Board, chair of the YWCA Capital  
4 Campaign, and co-chair of YWCA Lakeview; and

5 WHEREAS, Esther Cohen was a member and chair of the Youth  
6 Farm League, now part of the Children's Home Association of  
7 Illinois, for decades; she was a lifelong conservationist and  
8 believed deeply in historic preservation; and

9 WHEREAS, Esther Cohen was recognized as a 2021 Local  
10 Legend by Peoria Magazines in July 2021; and

11 WHEREAS, Esther Cohen was known for her endless, unerring  
12 natural instinct of finding people's strengths while having  
13 compassion for their weaknesses; she breathed the essence of  
14 what was possible in all her family, friends, and the  
15 important ideas she championed; she will be sorely missed; and

16 WHEREAS, Esther Cohen is survived by her children, Sheryl  
17 (Michael Bork) Cohen, Les (Melissa) Cohen, and Jennifer Cohen;  
18 her grandchildren, Julian Cohen and Livia Cohen; her brothers,  
19 Michael (Karen) Rotenberg and Charles Rotenberg; and her many  
20 nieces and nephews; therefore, be it

21 RESOLVED, BY THE SENATE OF THE ONE HUNDRED SECOND GENERAL

1 ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, that we mourn the passing of  
2 Esther R. Cohen and extend our sincere condolences to her  
3 family, friends, and all who knew and loved her; and be it  
4 further

5       RESOLVED, That a suitable copy of this resolution be  
6 presented to the family of Esther Cohen as an expression of our  
7 deepest sympathy.