



SR0502

LRB102 19984 LAW 28769 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 Ann M. Laurence of Springfield, who passed away on August 17, 2021; and

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WHEREAS, Ann Laurence was born in Freeport to Howard and Frances Laurence on March 24, 1948; she graduated from Freeport High School in 1966; she attended Highland Community College and the University of Illinois Circle Campus in Chicago; she married Ross Richardson in Lake City, Colorado in August 1973; and

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WHEREAS, Ann Laurence worked at a public relations firm in Chicago for a time before joining the fledgling Dan Walker for Governor campaign as volunteer coordinator in 1971; she ran for delegate to the Democratic Convention in Miami in 1972 and won an unexpected victory when the luck of the draw gave her a top ballot position in a crowded field; she was profiled along with others by Newsweek magazine as a representative of the cosmic demographic shift from 1968 for delegates to the Democratic National Convention; she attended the convention and proudly voted to nominate George McGovern for president; she moved to Springfield to join the Dan Walker administration in 1973, where she served as assistant to Director John Houlihan of the Illinois Department of Veterans Affairs; and

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1 WHEREAS, Alongside her husband, Ann Laurence opened The
2 Feed Store on the Old Capitol Plaza in downtown Springfield in
3 1977; their restaurant quickly became a popular lunch spot and
4 hosted locals and visitors for 43 years, including prominent
5 politicians and celebrities; they decided to retire when the
6 pandemic shut restaurants across Illinois, and they closed the
7 restaurant in July 2020; and

8 WHEREAS, Ann Laurence spent her life fighting for equality
9 and reproductive rights for women; while never elected to
10 public office, she ran unsuccessfully for office twice, she
11 actively participated in campaigns at all levels; she believed
12 that everyone bears a responsibility to participate in civic
13 life, and she acted accordingly; and

14 WHEREAS, Ann Laurence was the beloved wife, mother,
15 friend, and mentor to many; she loved music, especially folk
16 music, and never missed the Midnight Special radio program
17 broadcast by WFMT; her two passions were food and politics,
18 and she found fulfillment in both pursuits throughout her busy
19 and productive life; and

20 WHEREAS, Ann Laurence was preceded in death by her parents
21 and her brother, Howard Laurence; and

1 WHEREAS, Ann Laurence is survived by her husband of 48
2 years, Ross Richardson, and her son, Daniel (Haley Klitzing)
3 Laurence-Richardson; therefore, be it

4 RESOLVED, BY THE SENATE OF THE ONE HUNDRED SECOND GENERAL
5 ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, that we mourn the passing of
6 Ann M. Laurence and extend our sincere condolences to her
7 family, friends, and all who knew and loved her; and be it
8 further

9 RESOLVED, That a suitable copy of this resolution be
10 presented to the family of Ann Laurence as an expression of our
11 deepest sympathy.