



SR0986

LRB102 27221 LAW 38857 r

1

SENATE RESOLUTION

2

WHEREAS, The members of the Illinois Senate are saddened to learn of the death of Linda May Laird Bolton, who passed away on April 2, 2022; and

3

4

5

WHEREAS, Linda Bolton was born to Robert Allen Laird and Maxine Marie Jamison in Danville on May 2, 1948; she attended Danville schools and was home schooled for one year before attending First Baptist Christian Day School; she then attended North Ridge and Danville High School, graduating in 1967; she earned her associate's degree from then-Danville Junior College in 1969; she married Wilbur Wait Bolton at St. James United Methodist Church on January 27, 1973, and they lived in Champaign until 1980, where she attended the University of Illinois for two years; and

6

7

8

9

10

11

12

13

14

15

WHEREAS, Linda Bolton returned to school for another degree in computer programming and then took a job writing copy and helping to automate the traffic and billing department of WIAI FM; she worked there for 12 years, moving into the news department, where she served as a reporter, anchor, and then news director; during that time, she earned an award for Second Best Downstate News Reporting from the Illinois News Broadcasters; and

16

17

18

19

20

21

22

1 WHEREAS, Linda Bolton was recruited by Public Health
2 Administrator Steve Laker to be in charge of Community Health
3 Education in 1996 to help the public understand the importance
4 of public health issues; while there, she facilitated three
5 IPLANs, the required community health needs assessments that
6 health departments are required to do for license retention;
7 she earned an award for marketing from the Illinois Public
8 Health Association; locally, she was named a Woman of
9 Distinction; she filled an unexpired term on the Danville City
10 Council, where she served for six years, spending most of that
11 time chairing the Public Works Committee; while at the
12 Vermilion Country Health Department, she graduated with a
13 degree in Organizational Leadership from Greenville College in
14 2007; she accepted a position as director of Business
15 Development at Vermilion Advantage after 14 years with the
16 health department; and

17 WHEREAS, Linda Bolton was a certified public information
18 officer with a specialty in Risk Communications, and she
19 served as the volunteer public information officer for
20 Vermilion County Emergency Management for 16 years; she was a
21 past member of Ambucs; she was an active community volunteer,
22 chairing Media/Marketing for the Oldsmobile Balloon Classic
23 for most of its 15 years, and she was proudly one of the
24 organizers and board members of the 2016 Balloons Over
25 Vermilion; she served as president of the Convention and

1 Visitors' Bureau; she was the first female president of the
2 Danville Family YMCA, serving two terms; she volunteered for
3 Festival of Trees for many years, including serving as chair
4 of Marketing/Media; she served as director, producer, board
5 member, and president of the Red Mask Kathryn Randolph Theatre
6 in Danville, where she additionally appeared in a Christmas
7 production with her husband Wilbur on the stage where they
8 met; she also had the rare privilege of appearing as Ouiser in
9 the Beef House Dinner Theatre production of Steel Magnolias;
10 and

11 WHEREAS, Once she left the news business at WIAI, Linda
12 Bolton was recruited by Michael Hulvey to help with news at
13 Neuhoff Media, where she was asked to helm a morning radio
14 interview show, which she did; she hosted Newsmakers 1490 WAN
15 for many years; she won a Silver Dome award for her community
16 news program from the Illinois Broadcasters Association in
17 2016; and

18 WHEREAS, Linda Bolton served on the Presence United
19 Samaritans Medical Center Missions Committee and the Community
20 Leadership Board; she was a board member of the Vermilion
21 County Rape Crisis Center, known today as the Survivor
22 Resource Center; she became an advocate for CASA after she
23 retired; she served on the Danville Police and Fire Commission
24 for many years, assuming the role of chair when the former

1 longtime chair became a judge; she also served on the city's
2 Hispanic/Latino Committee; she served on the Danville Public
3 Library Board of Trustees, assuming the role of president in
4 2016; she served on the Grants Committee of the Vermilion Area
5 Healthcare Foundation Board of Directors and the Vermilion
6 County Mental Health Initiative; she assisted Vermilion County
7 Board Chairman Mike Marron in facilitating Strategic Planning
8 2015 from 2016 to 2017, setting a vision for the county's
9 future; and

10 WHEREAS, Linda Bolton was an active member of St. James
11 United Methodist Church, serving on its Board of Trustees,
12 which she chaired for two terms; she also served on and chaired
13 the Staff/Parish Relations Committee; she then served on the
14 Visioning, Building, and Construction Committees, overseeing
15 renovations to the historic old church; alongside her husband,
16 she was a member of the Keystone Sunday School group; she also
17 served as church archivist, preserving much of the church's
18 history; and

19 WHEREAS, Alongside her husband, Linda Bolton was part of
20 the original organizers of the vintage baseball team, the
21 Vermilion Voles, and they were very active with the group for a
22 time; they were avid collectors of memorabilia from the
23 1933/34 Chicago World's Fair; she also collected memorabilia
24 from businesses in the City of Danville and antique Santos;

1 she loved reading, and she belonged to a book club with her
2 husband; and

3 WHEREAS, Linda Bolton enjoyed sharing lunch and life with
4 a small group of very close friends, and they included Carol
5 Vorel, Jenny Trimmell, Nancy O'Kane, and some special young
6 women she was privileged to mentor over the years, Dona
7 Chiafreddo and Alicia Pettigrew; and

8 WHEREAS, Linda Bolton always marveled at living such a
9 great life with a truly supportive, understanding husband who
10 made her laugh, never judged, and kept her grounded while
11 never letting her take herself too seriously; therefore, be it

12 RESOLVED, BY THE SENATE OF THE ONE HUNDRED SECOND GENERAL
13 ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, that we mourn the passing of
14 Linda May Laird Bolton and extend our sincere condolences to
15 her family, friends, and all who knew and loved her; and be it
16 further

17 RESOLVED, That a suitable copy of this resolution be
18 presented to the family of Linda Bolton as an expression of our
19 deepest sympathy.