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LRB102 27158 LAW 38667 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 Mary Therese "Tesse" Donnelly, who passed away on January 4, 2022 at the age of 91; and

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WHEREAS, Tesse Donnelly was born on October 20, 1930 to Vincent and Theresa McNulty Hartigan and lived in St. Louis with her younger siblings Vincent Emmet and Helen Patrice Hartigan; and

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WHEREAS, Tesse Donnelly attended Fontbonne College until she transferred to the College of New Rochelle in New York; and

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WHEREAS, Tesse Donnelly was an active member of the Young Christian Students and the National Students Association, serving as Chair of the latter's Missouri-Kansas region in 1949; and

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WHEREAS, Tesse Donnelly continued her education at the University of Chicago, studying under Yves Simon and earning her master's degree in history; and

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WHEREAS, Tesse Donnelly was the only woman enrolled in the University of Chicago's graduate history program at the time; and

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1           WHEREAS, Tesse Donnelly and her future husband, William J.  
2           Donnelly, met during her time at the University of Chicago  
3           and, at the time of his death in 2016, they had been married  
4           nearly 60 years; and

5           WHEREAS, Tesse Donnelly and her husband led a household of  
6           five children in Oak Park; and

7           WHEREAS, Tesse Donnelly worked vigorously for racial  
8           integration, open housing, and the Fair Housing Ordinance,  
9           which, in May 1968, culminated in its passage in Oak Park; and

10          WHEREAS, Tesse Donnelly worked with women to foster their  
11          mutual flourishing in groups and organizations, including the  
12          La Leche League, the Lauds Prayer Group, and Limina, a women's  
13          spirituality organization; and

14          WHEREAS, Tesse Donnelly served as president on the board  
15          of the C.G. Jung Institute in Evanston; and

16          WHEREAS, Tesse Donnelly helped to found the Experimental  
17          Program at Oak Park River Forest High School and Arbor West  
18          Neighbors; and

19          WHEREAS, Tesse Donnelly made sure that as often as her

1 activism drew her from the home into the world that she would  
2 also bring the world into her home; and

3 WHEREAS, Tesse Donnelly and her husband Bill would invite  
4 guests to join them for gatherings characterized by ritual and  
5 song; and

6 WHEREAS, Tesse Donnelly, a founding member of the St.  
7 Giles Family Mass Community in 1971, hosted numerous meetings  
8 and, on occasion, mass in her home; and

9 WHEREAS, Tesse Donnelly was an avid organic gardener and  
10 delighted in visits from all manner of birds to her  
11 always-full birdfeeder; and

12 WHEREAS, Tesse Donnelly treasured her neighbors on Forest  
13 Avenue and was involved in planning annual block parties,  
14 attending her last one in the fall of 2021; and

15 WHEREAS, Tesse Donnelly, when asked how she would like to  
16 be remembered, replied "As someone who cared"; and

17 WHEREAS, Tesse Donnelly is survived by her children,  
18 Thomas (Anne Wicker), John, Theresa (John Irwin), Patrick  
19 (Jessica Daniels), and Maura (Matthew O'Halloran); and her  
20 grandchildren, Claude, Ambrose, Liam, Gabriel, Lucy, Beatrice,

1 Fiona, Finnbar, Ronan, and Emmett; therefore, be it

2 RESOLVED, BY THE SENATE OF THE ONE HUNDRED SECOND GENERAL  
3 ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, that we mourn the passing of  
4 Mary Therese "Tesse" Donnelly and extend our sincere  
5 condolences to her family, friends, and all who knew and loved  
6 her; and be it further

7 RESOLVED, That a suitable copy of this resolution be  
8 presented to the family of Tesse Donnelly as an expression of  
9 our deepest sympathy.