



HR0393

LRB103 34122 ECR 63940 r

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HOUSE RESOLUTION

2 WHEREAS, The members of the Illinois House of
3 Representatives are saddened to learn of the death of Karen
4 Antoinette Pepper, who passed away on August 15, 2023; and

5 WHEREAS, Karen Pepper was born to Doris Marie (Dixon)
6 Austin and Theodore Roosevelt Austin in Chicago on March 11,
7 1949; she was raised primarily by her paternal grandmother,
8 Luellen Dorch Adams, and stepgrandfather, James Adams; she
9 graduated from Farragut High School in 1966; she married
10 William R. Pepper in 1969, and they later divorced; she
11 attended Rosary College and the University of Illinois
12 Chicago's School of Nursing; she then received certification
13 for interior design from Malcom X College in Chicago; and

14 WHEREAS, Karen Pepper worked as an interior designer for
15 Montgomery Ward and Sears before retiring from Plunkett
16 Furniture; she designed interior furnishings and custom window
17 treatments for some of Chicagoland's largest and most upscale
18 homes; and

19 WHEREAS, Karen Pepper committed to her faith at an early
20 age; she attended the Holy Family Catholic Church in Chicago,
21 where she was a member of the choir and the Preservation
22 Society, and she taught Afro-dance during the church's summer

1 youth programs; she was involved in the Holy Family Parish
2 Council for several decades, serving as president for a term;
3 she later became a member of the Apostolic Church of God in
4 Chicago, where she was a longtime member of the Sanctuary
5 Choir; she shared her skills as a seamstress by altering choir
6 robes and assisting with sewing in the Liturgical Ministry;
7 she also taught and participated in Sunday school; and

8 WHEREAS, Karen Pepper loved food, games, puzzles, and
9 caring for plants and flowers around her home; and

10 WHEREAS, Karen Pepper will be remembered as a nurturer,
11 designer, seamstress, and friend; and

12 WHEREAS, Karen Pepper was preceded in death by her
13 parents; her brother, Theodore "Butch" Austin; her sister,
14 Diana Schmakel; and her godmother, MaryAnn Jones; and

15 WHEREAS, Karen Pepper is survived by her children, Desirée
16 (Kenneth) Pepper-Venzant, DeShona (Alexander) Robertson,
17 Donovan (Heidi) Pepper, and Devin (Alicia) Pepper; her
18 grandchildren, Maimuna, Tacuma, Dakota, Dillon, William,
19 Madilyn "Madi", and Lukas "Luke"; her stepsister, Dr. Loretta
20 Brunious; her uncle, William "Bill" (Florence) Dixon; her
21 cousin, Deborah L. Dixon; her sister in-law, Dr. Judith
22 Austin; many nieces, nephews, great-nieces, and great-nephews;

1 and a host of other relatives and friends; therefore, be it

2 RESOLVED, BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE
3 HUNDRED THIRD GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, that
4 we mourn the passing of Karen Antoinette Pepper and extend our
5 sincere condolences to her family, friends, and all who knew
6 and loved her; and be it further

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