



HR0489

LRB103 35133 LAW 65094 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 Ruth  
4 Colby of Mokena, who passed away on October 15, 2023; and

5           WHEREAS, Ruth Colby earned a bachelor's degree from  
6 Northwestern University, a master's degree from New York  
7 University, and an MBA from the University of Chicago,  
8 specializing in finance; she married Donald M. DeFrank; and

9           WHEREAS, Ruth Colby served as president and CEO of Silver  
10 Cross Hospital; during her six-year tenure, her extraordinary  
11 leadership earned Silver Cross Hospital national recognition  
12 in safety, quality, and experience, as evidenced by the  
13 hospital ranking as one of the 100 Top Hospitals 11 times,  
14 earning a 5-Star Rating by the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid  
15 Services, and receiving 17 Straight A's for Safety from the  
16 Leapfrog Group; under her leadership, Silver Cross Hospital  
17 opened Will County's first and only Level 3 Neonatal Intensive  
18 Care Unit, introduced an open-heart surgery program, and  
19 championed the opening of the Midwest Institute for Robotic  
20 Surgery; she forged many partnerships with leading  
21 Chicago-academic health systems, including the Shirley Ryan  
22 AbilityLab for inpatient and outpatient rehabilitation  
23 services, University of Chicago Medicine for cancer services

1 and neurosciences, the Rush University Medical Center for lung  
2 surgery, the Ann and Robert H. Lurie Children's Hospital for  
3 pediatric and neonatal services, and US HealthVest to build  
4 the 110-bed Silver Oaks Behavioral Hospital; and

5 WHEREAS, Ruth Colby was deeply engaged in community  
6 service, including serving as president of the Society for  
7 Healthcare Strategy and Market Development, an American  
8 Hospital Association membership group, chair of the Will  
9 County Center for Economic Development, board member of the  
10 Will County Children's Advocacy Center, and the chair-elect of  
11 the Illinois Health and Hospital Association Board; she was  
12 appointed to the American Hospital Association's Regional  
13 Planning Board for Region 5 and was a member of the American  
14 Hospital Association Membership Group, the United Way of Will  
15 County Pillars Society, the Rotary Club of Joliet, and the  
16 Economic Club of Chicago; and

17 WHEREAS, Ruth Colby received the national award for  
18 Individual Personal Achievement in 2009, the Athena Award from  
19 the Joliet Region Chamber of Commerce in 2021, and the  
20 Distinguished Citizen Award from the Rainbow Council of the  
21 Boy Scouts; she was named the New Lenox Citizen of the Year by  
22 the New Lenox Chamber of Commerce in 2023, recognized as a  
23 Notable Woman in Healthcare and a Notable Woman Executive over  
24 age 50 by Crain's Chicago Business in 2019, and was honored by

1 Crain's Chicago Business as a Notable Healthcare Executive;  
2 and

3 WHEREAS, Ruth Colby was a beloved wife, loving mother and  
4 aunt, and a dear sister and sister-in-law; she was known to her  
5 community as a healthcare visionary through her work both  
6 professionally and personally; and

7 WHEREAS, Ruth Colby is survived by her husband; her son,  
8 David (Becky Riffkin) Chodak; her sister, Judy (Steven)  
9 Dolins; her sister-in-law, Sue DeFrank; her nieces, Maddie  
10 Dolins and Gabi Kastel; and her nephew, 1st Lieutenant U.S.  
11 Navy Dr. Michael (Meredith) Beeler; therefore, be it

12 RESOLVED, BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE  
13 HUNDRED THIRD GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, that  
14 we mourn the passing of Ruth Colby and extend our sincere  
15 condolences to her family, friends, and all who knew and loved  
16 her; and be it further

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