



SR0404

LRB103 33238 LAW 63047 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 Drinda L. O'Connor, who passed away on July 16, 2023; and

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WHEREAS, Drinda O'Connor was born to James Paul and Joyce Inez Hicks in Monticello, Kentucky on August 9, 1951; she graduated from Pleasant Plains High School and earned her Bachelor of Arts in Communication from Sangamon State University in Springfield; and

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WHEREAS, Drinda O'Connor worked for the State of Illinois for 24 years; for 15 of those years, she served as deputy chief operations officer with the Illinois Department of Human Services (IDHS), where she managed the State of Illinois' largest leased property portfolio; prior to working at IDHS, she served as director of Citizens Assistance and Community Affairs for both Governor James Thompson and Governor Jim Edgar; and

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WHEREAS, Drinda O'Connor was very active in her community, volunteering her time and efforts to many organizations; she was a former elected trustee and chairman of the board of Lincoln Land Community College, an appointed commissioner of the Springfield Airport Authority, a trustee of the Sangamon

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1 County Water Reclamation District, president of the World
2 Affairs Council of Central Illinois, one of the seven
3 commissioners to oversee the Attorney Registration and
4 Disciplinary Commission, and treasurer of the Sangamon County
5 Republican Foundation, where she planned all fundraising
6 events and chaired dozens of fundraisers for numerous local
7 and statewide candidates; and

8 WHEREAS, Drinda O'Connor was also involved in numerous
9 other social groups, clubs, and committees, including
10 Sunnyside, Together Women Rise, and the Sangamon County
11 Republican Women; and

12 WHEREAS, Drinda O'Connor lived a full life; her love for
13 travel led her to more than 30 countries, including Japan,
14 China, Africa, Jordan, Cuba, Norway, Switzerland, and Egypt;
15 she loved reading and learning about family history; and

16 WHEREAS, Drinda O'Connor was a kind, generous soul, with a
17 personality that could light up any room; she was happiest
18 when spending time with her family, and she was affectionately
19 known as "Gaga" to her granddaughter, Addi; she will be
20 remembered for her love of family and friends; and

21 WHEREAS, Drinda O'Connor was preceded in death by her
22 parents and her brother, Jimmy Wayne Hicks; and

1 WHEREAS, Drinda O'Connor is survived by her daughters,
2 Kelly Anne Sweeton and Julie K. (Duane) Warrens; her
3 granddaughter, Addison Elizabeth "Addi" Warrens; her siblings,
4 Carolyn Sue Reavis, Forrest Lee (the late Sally) Hicks, Deena
5 Charlene Barnett, Billy Jo (Connie) Hicks, and Paul Jason
6 Hicks; and a multitude of nieces, nephews, and cousins;
7 therefore, be it

8 RESOLVED, BY THE SENATE OF THE ONE HUNDRED THIRD GENERAL
9 ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, that we mourn the passing of
10 Drinda L. O'Connor and extend our sincere condolences to her
11 family, friends, and all who knew and loved her; and be it
12 further

13 RESOLVED, That a suitable copy of this resolution be
14 presented to the family of Drinda O'Connor as an expression of
15 our deepest sympathy.