



HR1386

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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 Dr. Marie
4 Wilkinson of Aurora, who passed away on August 12, 2010; and

5 WHEREAS, She was born May 6, 1909 in New Orleans, Louisiana
6 as Marie LeBeau; she moved to Aurora in 1929 and married auto
7 mechanic Charles Wilkinson three years later; she was known as
8 the matriarch of Aurora and spent most of her 101 years giving
9 back to the city she called home; she fed the hungry, clothed
10 the poor, and convinced politicians to enact fair laws and
11 fought for equal rights for everyone; and

12 WHEREAS, In 1961, she started the St. Vincent DePaul Center
13 on Sard Avenue in Aurora with the help of St. Peter's Church;
14 she also helped form the Quad County Urban League, Aurora's
15 Human Relations Commission (which she chaired for 40 years),
16 and the food pantry and child development center that bear her
17 name; and

18 WHEREAS, She was a strong crusader for civil rights and
19 worked with Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. and met Rosa Parks and
20 Mamie Till-Mobley, the mother of Emmett Till; in 2001, she
21 received the Lumen Christi Award, the Catholic Church's highest
22 honor for missionary work; and

1 WHEREAS, She was preceded in death by her parents, Charles
2 and Maude (Robinson) La Beau; her husband, Charles Wilkinson;
3 her son, Donald Wilkinson; her grandson, Craig Wilkinson; her
4 brother, Edward La Beau, Sr.; her paternal grandparents, Robert
5 and Lena Robinson; her maternal grandmother, Olympia Glapion;
6 and her aunt and uncle, Arthur and Hazel Ogden; and

7 WHEREAS, Dr. Wilkinson is survived by her daughter, Sheila
8 Scott-Wilkinson; her two granddaughters, Donna Wilkinson and
9 Michelle Wilkinson; her great-grandson, Christopher Wilkinson;
10 and a host of nieces, nephews, friends, and other relatives;
11 therefore, be it

12 RESOLVED, BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE
13 NINETY-SIXTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, that we
14 mourn, along with her family and friends, the passing of Dr.
15 Marie Wilkinson; and be it further

16 RESOLVED, That a suitable copy of this resolution be
17 presented to the family of Dr. Marie Wilkinson as a symbol of
18 our sincere sympathy.