



HR0945

LRB097 21140 KXB 68585 r

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HOUSE RESOLUTION

2 WHEREAS, The members of the Illinois House of
3 Representatives are pleased to congratulate Barbara Thomas on
4 the occasion of her retirement on June 1, 2012, after 25 years
5 of service as a distinguished Illinois educator; and

6 WHEREAS, She was greatly influenced by her mother, Mary
7 Woodroffe, who raised 4 children in Lake in the Hills and later
8 worked at Quaker Oats; she is currently retired and enjoying
9 life at Clare Oaks Retirement Community in Bartlett; and

10 WHEREAS, She was also greatly influenced by her father,
11 Basil Woodroffe, who served as a Marine in World War II in the
12 South Pacific; he later was a Manager at Fox Electric Supply in
13 Elgin and Aurora; he passed away in April of 1982; and

14 WHEREAS, She graduated from Marian Central Catholic High
15 School in Woodstock in 1968; she received her degree in
16 Elementary Education at Northern Illinois University in 1972,
17 where she met her husband, Randel Thomas; they were married
18 August 19, 1972; and

19 WHEREAS, In 1973, she was hired as a fifth grade teacher at
20 Neil Armstrong Elementary School in Schaumburg District 54; she
21 taught for 6 years before leaving to raise her children; and

1 WHEREAS, In 1979, she gave birth to her daughter, Tricia
2 Jeanne Klein (Thomas); in 1982, she gave birth to her son,
3 Jeffrey Basil Thomas; while raising her children, she was a
4 substitute teacher at their elementary school, Steeple Run, in
5 Naperville; and

6 WHEREAS, In 1993, she received her Masters degree from
7 Northern Illinois University; she then returned to full-time
8 teaching as a seventh-grade teacher in 1993 at Notre Dame
9 Catholic School in Clarendon Hills, where she taught for 2
10 years; in 1995, she began teaching at Brookdale Elementary in
11 Indian Prairie School District 204, where she taught fourth and
12 fifth grade; in 2009, she transferred to Graham Elementary
13 School in Indian Prairie School District 204; and

14 WHEREAS, She has influenced hundreds of young students by
15 instilling a passion and love for learning; she has mentored
16 colleagues by providing guidance for teachers new to the
17 profession through collaboration; and she served as an Indian
18 Prairie Union Representative for several years; and

19 WHEREAS, She has made major contributions to the field of
20 education by pioneering researched-based methods; approaching
21 her work with enthusiasm and honest reflection; and above all,
22 identifying and recognizing that each student has a unique way

1 of learning, including those with disabilities; and

2 WHEREAS, She has made major contributions to the community,
3 serving as a volunteer at Naperville North High School in
4 Naperville, St. Margaret Mary Parish in Naperville; the Girl
5 Scouts of America, Indian Prairie School District 204, and
6 Steeple Run Subdivision as President and Secretary of the
7 Community Council; and

8 WHEREAS, She plans to spend her retirement doing activities
9 at her own leisure at her home in Naperville, including
10 spending time with her family, most notably her grandson,
11 Justin Thomas Klein, traveling with her husband, substitute
12 teaching, enjoying quality time with lifelong friends, most
13 notably, the Biddies and the Fake Family, with whom she has
14 been friends for over 40 years, and enjoying quiet reading and
15 a cup of coffee in the morning; therefore, be it

16 RESOLVED, BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE
17 NINETY-SEVENTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, that
18 we congratulate Barbara Thomas on her retirement as an educator
19 and wish her the best in all her future endeavors; and be it
20 further

21 RESOLVED, That a suitable copy of this resolution be
22 presented to Barbara Thomas as a symbol of our respect and

HR0945

-4-

LRB097 21140 KXB 68585 r

1 esteem.