



SR0341

LRB097 13754 KXB 58307 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 Julia G. "Judy" Morris of Peoria, who passed away on September 26, 2011; and

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WHEREAS, She was born on September 7, 1933, in Galesburg to Lloyd and Mildred M. (Griggs) Gerstenberger; she married Richard "Bud" Smith on March 14, 1954 and he preceded her in death; she later married Dearl Morris on September 23, 1989, in Chillicothe; and

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WHEREAS, She graduated from Galesburg High School in 1951; she attended the University of Illinois, majoring in elementary education and psychology; she was a proud member of Kappa Alpha Theta sorority and was active with the university choir and was an Illini cheerleader; she was also a longtime member of PEO, Chapter FBA; she was a member of the Chillicothe Plymouth Congregational (UCC) Church for many years, serving on the building committee from 1959 to 1962, and as a Sunday School teacher and youth group leader; she was also a member of the choir and women's fellowship; and

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WHEREAS, She served on the Hillcrest Nursery School Board; she was a Girl Scout leader and trainer; she was a longtime board member of the Friendship House of Christian Service, and

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1 served on the board of directors, women's auxiliary, and helped  
2 develop the County Child Abuse Prevention Council; she was  
3 awarded the annual Love A Child award in 1988 for her work; and

4 WHEREAS, She and her first husband were stationed in  
5 Geneva, Switzerland, with Caterpillar for 7 years; while in  
6 Geneva, the family attended the Evangelical Lutheran Church,  
7 where she was very active in and with the COSA Wives, helping  
8 newly arrived Caterpillar families adjust to their new  
9 surroundings and culture; and

10 WHEREAS, Most recently, she was an active member of the  
11 Friends of Clonmel, Peoria's Irish sister city; she and her  
12 husband also helped host several families from Ireland on their  
13 visits to the United States; she was a collector of  
14 international Nativity sets, displaying and sharing the  
15 collection with various churches and organizations over the  
16 years throughout the Christmas season; and

17 WHEREAS, She was preceded in death by her first husband,  
18 Richard Smith; her parents; and her brothers, Charles and  
19 George; and

20 WHEREAS, Julia Morris is survived by her husband, Dearl;  
21 her son, Ross (Linda) Smith; her daughters, Laura (Len) Berg  
22 and Cindy (Danny) Erickson; her stepson, Skip (Paula) Morris;

1 her sister, Carolyn Evans; her 7 grandchildren; her 6  
2 step-grandchildren; and her 2 step-great-grandchildren;  
3 therefore, be it

4 RESOLVED, BY THE SENATE OF THE NINETY-SEVENTH GENERAL  
5 ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, that we mourn, along with  
6 her family and friends, the passing of Julia Morris; and be it  
7 further

8 RESOLVED, That a suitable copy of this resolution be  
9 presented to the family of Julia Morris as a symbol of our  
10 sincere sympathy.