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HOUSE RESOLUTION

2 WHEREAS, The members of the Illinois House of
3 Representatives were saddened to learn of the death of former
4 Illinois Supreme Court Justice Mary Ann McMorrow, who died on
5 February 23, 2013; and

6 WHEREAS, Justice McMorrow was born Mary Ann Grohwin on
7 January 16, 1930, in Chicago; she grew up in the St. Stanislaus
8 Kostka Parish on the northwest side and later graduated from
9 Immaculata High School and Rosary College, now Dominican
10 University; and

11 WHEREAS, Justice McMorrow, a pioneer for women in law,
12 received her law degree in 1953 from Loyola University School
13 of Law, where she was the only woman in her graduating class,
14 and class president and associate editor of the law review; she
15 began her career as a researcher for Loyola University and then
16 worked for the law firm of Riordan & Linklater; she was later
17 appointed Assistant State's Attorney in Cook County, and in
18 1976 was elected judge of the Circuit Court of Cook County; in
19 1985, the Illinois Supreme Court named Mary Ann McMorrow to the
20 Appellate Court, a position to which she won election in 1986
21 and served as the first woman chair of the Executive Committee;
22 and

1 WHEREAS, Though Justice McMorrow broke down long-held
2 gender barriers throughout her career and served as a mentor to
3 many women in the legal profession, she earned the respect and
4 admiration of all who knew her; she became the first woman to
5 prosecute felony cases in Cook County while serving as
6 Assistant State's Attorney; in 1992, she became the first woman
7 to serve on the Illinois Supreme Court in its then 173-year
8 history, and in 2002, she became the first woman to serve as
9 Chief Justice; she retired from the bench in 2006; and

10 WHEREAS, Justice McMorrow fought for fairness and justice
11 throughout her career; she advocated for legal aid to help low
12 income residents, called on lawyers to serve the poor, and
13 urged those in the legal profession to offer their talents in
14 pro bono services; in early 2011, she joined a long list of
15 advocates, including a number of former U.S. Attorneys, in
16 urging Governor Pat Quinn to sign legislation abolishing the
17 death penalty; in her 14-year tenure on the Illinois Supreme
18 Court, she was involved in landmark cases and decisions,
19 including the Baby Richard case, in which she urged a hearing
20 on the best interests of the child, and limits on jury awards;
21 she wrote for the Supreme Court 225 majority opinions and an
22 additional 85 concurring and dissenting opinions; and

23 WHEREAS, Justice McMorrow's long and distinguished career
24 was filled with many honors and achievements; she was inducted

1 as a Laureate of the Academy of Illinois Lawyers in 2009; among
2 her numerous awards, she received the Medal of Excellence Award
3 from the Loyola University School of Law Alumni Association in
4 1991, The Fellows of the Illinois Bar Foundation Award for
5 Distinguished Service to Law and Society in 1996, Chicago
6 Lawyer Magazine's Person of the Year in 2003, the American Bar
7 Association's Margaret Brent Award in 2005, the Women's Bar
8 Association of Illinois' Myra Bradwell Woman of Achievement
9 Award, and three honorary degrees; she served as a master
10 bencher of the American Inns of Court and member of the
11 American Judicature Society, the National Association of Women
12 Judges, and the Board of Directors of the Illinois Judges'
13 Association; and

14 WHEREAS, Justice McMorrow was preceded in death by her
15 loving husband of 24 years, the late Emmett J. McMorrow; she is
16 survived by their daughter, Mary Ann McMorrow, and her sister,
17 Frances Grohwin; therefore, be it

18 RESOLVED, BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE
19 NINETY-EIGHTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, that
20 we mourn, along with her family and friends, the passing of
21 Justice Mary Ann McMorrow; and be it further

22 RESOLVED, That a suitable copy of this resolution be
23 presented to the family of Justice McMorrow as a symbol of our

1 deep sympathies and great esteem.