



HR0644

LRB099 13182 GRL 37078 r

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HOUSE RESOLUTION

2 WHEREAS, The members of the Illinois House of
3 Representatives are pleased to congratulate Myrtle Rice on the
4 occasion of her 100th birthday on June 30, 2015; and

5 WHEREAS, Myrtle Rice was born on June 30, 1915, the ninth
6 of the 10 children born in her family; she was always
7 persistent, even from a young age; in 1920, at the age of 5,
8 she spent time in a darkened, lonely room in the Peoria
9 Pestilence House fighting small pox; while there, she remembers
10 being fed from trays pushed under a small opening at the bottom
11 of the doors; her caretakers waited to see if the little girl
12 would make it, which she did; and

13 WHEREAS, Myrtle Rice taught herself to drive a car in 1929,
14 at the age of 14, observing carefully from the back seat how
15 others did it; when her father needed a driver, she volunteered
16 and he said "show me", which she did; and

17 WHEREAS, Myrtle Rice married the love of her life, Bob
18 Rice, in 1946; the marriage lasted more than 64 years until its
19 end after Bob's battle with Alzheimer's disease with his loving
20 wife by his side; and

21 WHEREAS, Myrtle Rice had 2 sons at the ages of 17 and 19;

1 her second son was one of the first to be delivered by
2 caesarean section at a Peoria hospital in 1934; her son Tom
3 passed away at the age of 63, and her son Jim survives and is 80
4 years old; and

5 WHEREAS, In her mid-20's, Myrtle Rice headed to San
6 Francisco, working in the city's naval shipyards for 4 years
7 during World War II; she worked as a driver for naval officers
8 and occasionally drove semi-trucks to pick up the returning
9 sailors from the docks; she read a lot of books while she
10 waited in the jeep for the naval officers she drove for; the
11 country had asked for her help and she obliged; and

12 WHEREAS, It was a proud moment in Myrtle Rice's life to
13 have shaken hands with both John and Bobby Kennedy on the
14 campaign trail when they stopped at her family's restaurant in
15 East Peoria in 1960; she remembers the Kennedy boys'
16 handsomeness; and

17 WHEREAS, Myrtle Rice lived a full and independent life in
18 her central Illinois home, cutting the grass on her riding
19 mower, until just last year; however, her heart issues and
20 pulmonary problems have not seemed to slow her down much; and

21 WHEREAS, On June 1, 2015, Myrtle Rice moved to an
22 independent living facility in Pekin; in the same month, she

1 once again passed her driver's license test; she didn't need a
2 driver's license when she began driving in 1929; and

3 WHEREAS, Myrtle Rice was a dedicated, loving daughter to
4 her mother, who passed away in 1971; she has worked hard and
5 productively her whole life and remains fiercely independent;
6 she is blessed with many grandchildren and
7 great-grandchildren, who threw her a party to celebrate her
8 first 100 years at the end of June of 2015; therefore, be it

9 RESOLVED, BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE
10 NINETY-NINTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, that we
11 congratulate Myrtle Rice on the occasion of her 100th birthday
12 and wish her many happy and healthy years to come; and be it
13 further

14 RESOLVED, That a suitable copy of this resolution be
15 presented to Myrtle Rice as an expression of our esteem and
16 respect.