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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 former State Representative Mary Lou Cowlshaw, who passed away on June 23, 2010; and

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WHEREAS, She was born February 20, 1932, in Rockford, to Donald George and Mildred Corinne (Hayes) Miller; she graduated as valedictorian from West Rockford High School; she majored in and received her Bachelor of Science degree in journalism at the University of Illinois in Champaign-Urbana and did post-graduate studies at Northwestern University; and

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WHEREAS, Her honorary degrees included a Doctor of Humane Letters degree from North Central College in 1999 and from Benedictine University in 2000; at the time of her passing, she was an Adjunct Professor of Education at North Central College; and

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WHEREAS, She married Wayne Cowlshaw on July 24, 1954; they had three children, Beth (David) McDaniel, John (Jane) Cowlshaw, and Paula (Andrew) Rader, and eight grandchildren, Jacob McDaniel, Zachary, Maxwell, Alexandria, and Rachel Green-Cowlshaw, and Emily, Elizabeth, and John Paul (J.P.) Rader; she was preceded in death by her parents and her son, John; and

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1 WHEREAS, She had been a Naperville resident since 1958; she
2 served on the Naperville District 203 Board of Education from
3 1972-1983; prior to her election to the Illinois General
4 Assembly in November of 1982, she was a member of the editorial
5 staff of the Naperville Sun; in 1981, she won the first place
6 annual award for investigative reporting from the Illinois
7 Press Association and authored the book "*This Band's Been Here*
8 *Quite a Spell...*" about the history of the Naperville Municipal
9 Band; and

10 WHEREAS, She served as the Representative from the 41st
11 District from 1983 to 2003; during her 20 years in the
12 legislature representing Naperville, she sponsored countless
13 proposals, including the Chicago School Reform legislation,
14 which became a model for the nation; she also sponsored the
15 Education for Homeless Children Act and the legislation
16 creating the Illinois Mathematics and Science Academy; she
17 sponsored changes regarding hospital districts that ultimately
18 enabled Naperville's Edward Hospital to go from public to
19 private status; she was later credited for "saving" the
20 hospital; and

21 WHEREAS, House committees she served on during her time in
22 the legislature included the Elementary and Secondary
23 Education Committee, Public Utilities Committee, Mental Health

1 and Patient Abuse Committee, Higher Education Appropriations
2 Committee, and the Select Committee on Aging; and

3 WHEREAS, She was a member of many of Naperville's civic
4 organizations; she, along with friends, spearheaded the
5 creation of the Naperville Park District; she was a member of
6 the Community United Methodist Church for 50 years; she was the
7 recipient of many legislative and public service awards,
8 including the one that was most special for her, the naming of
9 a new elementary school in 1997 in Indian Prairie School
10 District 204 as the "Mary Lou Cowlshaw Elementary School"; she
11 also received the "Golden Apple" award four times from the
12 Illinois Association of School Boards; therefore, be it

13 RESOLVED, BY THE SENATE OF THE NINETY-SIXTH GENERAL
14 ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, that we mourn, along with
15 her family, friends, and former constituents, the passing of
16 Mary Lou Cowlshaw; and be it further

17 RESOLVED, That a suitable copy of this resolution be
18 presented to the family of Mary Lou Cowlshaw as a symbol of
19 our sincere sympathy.