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HOUSE RESOLUTION

2 WHEREAS, The members of the Illinois House of
3 Representatives are pleased to remember Etel Billig for her
4 many years of service to the south suburban community, her
5 dedication to local theatre, and her love for her family and
6 friends; and

7 WHEREAS, Etel Billig was born on December 16, 1932, in New
8 York City; she was the daughter of Anthony and Martha Papa; she
9 earned her bachelor's and master's degrees at New York
10 University; Etel lived in Park Forest since 1964, with the
11 exception of the years 1974 to 1976, when she lived in Omaha,
12 Nebraska while performing at a dinner theater; and

13 WHEREAS, Etel Billig had a theatrical career of more than
14 50 years, which included performances at the Goodman Theatre,
15 the Drury Lane Theatre in Oakbrook Terrace, the Candlelight
16 Dinner Playhouse, and the Court Theatre; she also performed in
17 productions at the Wisdom Bridge Theatre in Chicago, the Forum,
18 and the Body Politic Theater; and

19 WHEREAS, Etel Billig and her husband, Steve Billig, founded
20 the Illinois Theatre Center in 1976; during her 36 years with
21 the theatre, she appeared in or directed more than 120
22 productions; and

1 WHEREAS, Etel Billig was a cherished mentor to many actors,
2 including Michael Shannon, an Academy Award nominee for best
3 actor for his role in "Revolutionary Road", who got his first
4 acting role at ITC, and Sally Murphy, who appeared on the TV
5 shows "The Good Wife" and "Law & Order: Criminal Intent" and
6 now is starring in "Time Stands Still" at the Steppenwolf
7 Theatre; and

8 WHEREAS, Etel Billig taught theater at Prairie State
9 College; she served as the president of the Southland Regional
10 Arts Council and as a member of the Theatre Advisory Panel of
11 the Illinois Arts Council; she participated in many area
12 charity events in her area and received numerous awards for her
13 contributions to the arts, including the Women Together Award
14 from the Abby Foundation, the Risk Taking Award from the
15 National Organization for Women, the Linda Morgan Award from
16 the Chicago Southland Convention & Visitors Bureau, and the
17 Athena Award; she was also elected to the Park Forest Hall of
18 Fame; and

19 WHEREAS, Etel Billig passed away on March 28, 2012, after
20 suffering a brain aneurysm at her desk at her beloved theater
21 on the previous day; and

22 WHEREAS, Etel Billig was preceded in death by her parents,

1 Anthony and Martha Papa, and her husband, Steve Billig; and

2 WHEREAS, Etel Billig is survived by her sons, Curt and
3 Jonathan; therefore, be it

4 RESOLVED, BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE
5 NINETY-SEVENTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, that
6 we remember and honor Etel Billig for her great influence on
7 theatre in Chicago and her great dedication to her community,
8 family, and friends; and be it further

9 RESOLVED, That a suitable copy of this resolution be
10 presented to the family of Etel Billig as a symbol of our
11 esteem and respect.