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HOUSE RESOLUTION

2           WHEREAS, The members of the Illinois House of  
3 Representatives are pleased to honor Sister Ellen Marie Ryan  
4 for her career accomplishments and for the scholarship created  
5 in her name; and

6           WHEREAS, Sister Ellen Ryan has served as a music teacher at  
7 Mother McAuley High School for 28 years, during which she  
8 taught a wide variety of music classes, ranging from general  
9 music to chorus and a cappella to strings; during her tenure at  
10 Mother McAuley, she taught thousands of students, directed  
11 hundreds of concerts, and chaperoned dozens of trips across the  
12 country, from nursing home performances and theatrical  
13 productions to trips visiting those feeling sick or depressed  
14 to sing them a song on Valentine's Day; she also organized  
15 madrigal dinners and taught herself to play numerous  
16 instruments, such as the violin, French horn, cello, bassoon,  
17 and oboe, so that she could better teach her students who  
18 wanted to learn those instruments; and

19           WHEREAS, Under Sister Ellen Ryan's leadership, the Mother  
20 McAuley music department multiplied from one full-time teacher  
21 to 4, with 2 of her former students as current teachers; and

22           WHEREAS, Sister Ellen Ryan has remained active in the

1 McAuley community; she currently volunteers a few days each  
2 week in the McAuley Office of Institutional Advancement and  
3 also coordinates the McAuley alumnae chorus; she plans  
4 liturgies for the Sisters of Mercy, sings in the choir at St.  
5 Barnabas Church, and teaches piano lessons at Mercy Housing at  
6 Wentworth Commons; and

7 WHEREAS, On June 14, 2012, various members of the Mother  
8 McAuley community, including alumnae, faculty, staff, donors,  
9 and other guests, hosted "Music & Memories with Sr. Ellen", a  
10 musical tribute to their legendary music teacher and choir  
11 director; held in the Mother McAuley Auditorium, more than 200  
12 people attended the evening, which featured a performance by  
13 the McAuley Alumnae Choir and others who returned to campus to  
14 lend their voices in homage of Sister Ellen, while more than  
15 170 members of a Facebook group signed up for a page devoted to  
16 Sister Ellen; the event raised more than \$10,000, enough to  
17 endow a scholarship in Sr. Ellen's name; and

18 WHEREAS, Sister Ellen Ryan serves as a model of hard work,  
19 integrity, and dedication for the people of the State of  
20 Illinois; therefore, be it

21 RESOLVED, BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE  
22 NINETY-SEVENTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, that  
23 we honor Sister Ellen Marie Ryan for her accomplishments and

1 wish her continued success and happiness in the future; and be  
2 it further

3       RESOLVED, That a suitable copy of this resolution be  
4 presented to Sister Ellen Ryan as a symbol of our esteem and  
5 respect.