



SR0807

LRB104 21933 RMO 37844 r

1 SENATE RESOLUTION

2 WHEREAS, The members of the Illinois Senate are saddened
3 to learn of the death of Kathryn "Kathy" Hickey-Heimlich, who
4 passed away on May 5, 2026; and

5 WHEREAS, Kathy Hickey-Heimlich was born to Robert "Bob"
6 Hickey and Loretta Hickey on June 22, 1955; she graduated from
7 Springfield High School in 1973 and earned her bachelor's
8 degree in special education from Illinois State University in
9 1977; she married Philip "Phil" Heimlich in 1979; and

10 WHEREAS, Kathy Hickey-Heimlich served as a special
11 education and English as a second language instructor in
12 District 186, stepping away from teaching for 14 years to
13 raise her three children; and

14 WHEREAS, Kathy Hickey-Heimlich, who had a passion for
15 serving individuals with disabilities and helping animals in
16 need, earned her master's degree in vocational rehabilitation
17 counseling from the University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign in
18 2000; she started an animal-assisted therapy program that
19 inspired her graduate research on the benefits of
20 animal-assisted therapy for children with severe disabilities,
21 and her work was later published and received the Graduate
22 Literary Award; and

1 WHEREAS, Kathy Hickey-Heimlich loved gardening and had a
2 gift for growing flowers; she always made room in her home for
3 anyone in need, rescuing dogs, cats, and even people; she
4 loved horses, and her horse, Johnny, was a cherished part of
5 her life for 23 years; watching the Triple Crown races with
6 family and friends brought her great joy; and

7 WHEREAS, Kathy Hickey-Heimlich will be remembered for her
8 intelligence, humor, love, and passion for life; her legacy of
9 compassion for family, friends, animals, and those in need
10 will live on through all who knew her; and

11 WHEREAS, Kathy Hickey-Heimlich was preceded in death by
12 her parents; her granddaughter, Loretta "Etta" Sloan; and her
13 brother-in-law, Kim Jones; her brother, Pat Hickey, passed
14 away several days after her death; and

15 WHEREAS, Kathy Hickey-Heimlich is survived by her husband
16 of 46 years, Phil; their three children, Philip "Ike"
17 (Jennifer) Heimlich, Elizabeth "Beth" Heimlich, and Kathryn
18 "Katie" (David Sloan) Heimlich; six grandchildren and an
19 honorary grandchild; her sisters, Tari Jones and Karen Schaub;
20 her brothers, Mike and John Hickey; many nieces and nephews;
21 and her longtime best friend, Suzanne Mansolilli; therefore,
22 be it

1 RESOLVED, BY THE SENATE OF THE ONE HUNDRED FOURTH GENERAL
2 ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, that we mourn the passing of
3 Kathryn "Kathy" Hickey-Heimlich and extend our sincere
4 condolences to her family, friends, and all who knew and loved
5 her; and be it further

6 RESOLVED, That a suitable copy of this resolution be
7 presented to the family of Kathy Hickey-Heimlich as an
8 expression of our deepest sympathy.