



HR0937

LRB101 23086 LAW 74217 r

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HOUSE RESOLUTION

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WHEREAS, The members of the Illinois House of Representatives are saddened to learn of the death of Bonnie Jean Hester of Peoria, who passed away on November 10, 2020; and

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WHEREAS, Hester was born in Truman, Arkansas to Vastula and Henry T. Slaughter on June 7, 1944; she married Jerry Hester on July 27, 1968, and he preceded her in death in 2012; she earned a Certificate in Labor History from the University of Illinois and a Clerical Certificate from the Vocational School of Southern Illinois; and

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WHEREAS, Bonnie Hester worked in the public sector for 35 years; she worked for the Peoria City and County Health Department for 25 years; most recently, she served as the program assistant for the Women, Infants, and Children (WIC) program; during her career, she served on the Health Care Committee for Peoria County Employees and as president of AFSCME local #3665 for 14 years; and

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WHEREAS, Bonnie Hester was committed to her faith and showed her passion through service; she was a longtime member of Christ Lutheran Church, where she taught Sunday school for nearly 30 years; she served on the school board of Peoria

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1 Christ Lutheran School, where she also assisted in the
2 lunchroom during the school day and was a constant presence
3 when her children and grandchildren attended the school; and

4 WHEREAS, Bonnie Hester was passionate about standing up for
5 her beliefs and for those without a voice; her activism began
6 when she was a young woman in Carbondale, where she was a
7 member of the Student Nonviolent Coordinating Committee during
8 the Civil Rights Movement; she continued her activism in
9 Peoria; upon her retirement, she was elected to represent
10 District 1 on the Peoria County Board from December 2006 to
11 November 2011; she volunteered for the American Red Cross
12 Disaster Services, the Heart of Illinois United Way, and the
13 Make-A-Wish Foundation; she was a past board member and active
14 member of the Southside Community United for Change; she also
15 served as a member of the executive board for the West Central
16 Illinois Labor Council and the NAACP; and

17 WHEREAS, Bonnie Hester was known for her smile, her
18 encouraging words, her friendliness, and her infectious
19 personality; she will be remembered for being the embodiment of
20 maternal pride; and

21 WHEREAS, Bonnie Hester was preceded in death by her
22 parents, three brothers, and her grandparents; and

1 WHEREAS, Bonnie Hester is survived by her son, Jerry
2 (Simone) Hester II; her daughters, Lorry Saunders and Amie
3 Hester; her grandchildren, Jervon, Ashton, Breonna, Jordyn,
4 Imani, and Jerry III; her brothers, Wardell Slaughter, James
5 Slaughter, and Charles Slaughter; her sisters, Jewel Thompson,
6 Jeraldine Brown, Lauretha Slaughter, and Barbara Ann Tipton;
7 and a host of nieces, nephews, cousins, other family members,
8 and friends; therefore, be it

9 RESOLVED, BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE
10 HUNDRED FIRST GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, that
11 we mourn the passing of Bonnie Jean Hester and extend our
12 sincere condolences to her family, friends, and all who knew
13 and loved her; and be it further

14 RESOLVED, That a suitable copy of this resolution be
15 presented to the family of Bonnie Hester as an expression of
16 our deepest sympathy.