



HR0379

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HOUSE RESOLUTION

2           WHEREAS, The members of the Illinois House of  
3 Representatives are saddened to learn of the death of Margaret  
4 S. "Peggy" Knoepfle of Springfield, who passed away on May 23,  
5 2021; and

6           WHEREAS, Peggy Knoepfle was born in Denver, Colorado to  
7 James and Agnes (Close) Sower on October 30, 1934; her  
8 father's engineering career took them to several places,  
9 including Lima, Peru, where as a teenager she attended college  
10 and fell in love with Latin American culture; her family then  
11 moved to Cincinnati, Ohio; she married John Knoepfle on  
12 December 26, 1956, and they moved to St. Louis; they  
13 eventually settled in Auburn; and

14           WHEREAS, Peggy Knoepfle earned her bachelor's degree at  
15 Washington University in St. Louis, Missouri and her master's  
16 degree in communications from Sangamon State University in  
17 Springfield, all while raising four children and supporting  
18 her husband's academic endeavors; and

19           WHEREAS, Peggy Knoepfle was employed as an associative  
20 editor at Illinois Issues; she was a lifelong Democrat and  
21 published the book After Alinsky: Community Organizing in  
22 Illinois, which includes an interview with the future

1 president, Barack Obama; she and her dear friend, Rosie  
2 Richmond, also produced a public access television series,  
3 Works and Progress; she was an avid writer and co-founded  
4 Brainchild Writers, a women's writing collective; her poems  
5 have been published in a variety of magazines and anthologies;  
6 and

7 WHEREAS, Peggy Knoepfle was a member of Witness for Peace,  
8 which included missionary trips to Nicaragua and one trip to  
9 Columbia and Cuba; she was chair of the Marywood branch of the  
10 Women's International League of Peace and Freedom; she  
11 co-founded the Auburn Food Pantry in Auburn and participated  
12 in the conservation of Revis Prairie; she advocated for the  
13 Hutchen's Creek Wilderness area in southern Illinois and  
14 managed a fair-trade retail store; her work as an activist  
15 included participating in numerous peaceful demonstrations for  
16 human rights in Washington D.C, Miami, Decatur, Chicago, and  
17 Springfield; she was an avid philanthropist and donated to  
18 numerous charities and sponsored many foster children; she  
19 volunteered countless hours helping the homeless and  
20 vulnerable in Springfield; and

21 WHEREAS, Peggy Knoepfle's honors include the 1997 National  
22 Home Time Video Award: Journey to Nicaragua, 2002 Springfield  
23 YWCA Women of Excellence Honorable Mention, and 2003  
24 Humanitarian of the Year Greater Springfield Interfaith

1 Association; and

2 WHEREAS, Peggy Knoepfle was an active member in  
3 Springfield at St. Joseph's Catholic Church and Abraham  
4 Lincoln Unitarian Universalist Congregation; and

5 WHEREAS, Peggy Knoepfle enjoyed taking road trips  
6 throughout Illinois with her family and had a great adventure  
7 to Alaska in 2021; she was brilliant, creative, and passionate  
8 about her causes, advocating for human rights, peace, freedom,  
9 equality for all, and nature conservation; and

10 WHEREAS, Peggy Knoepfle was preceded in death by her  
11 parents; her husband, John Knoepfle; and her infant son, James  
12 Girard Knoepfle; and

13 WHEREAS, Peggy Knoepfle is survived by her sons, John M.,  
14 David (Robin), and Christopher B. Knoepfle; her daughter,  
15 Molly (Rodney) Evans; her grandchildren, Emily Evans, Austin  
16 Dowis, Molly Knoepfle, and Hannah Knoepfle; her brother, Jim  
17 Sower; her sisters, Elinor Petuskey and Molly Sugarman; and  
18 numerous nieces and nephews; therefore, be it

19 RESOLVED, BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE  
20 HUNDRED SECOND GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, that  
21 we mourn the passing of Margaret S. "Peggy" Knoepfle and

1 extend our sincere condolences to her family, friends, and all  
2 who knew and loved her; and be it further

3       RESOLVED, That a suitable copy of this resolution be  
4 presented to the family of Peggy Knoepfle as an expression of  
5 our deepest sympathy.