



SR0631

LRB102 21853 LAW 30973 r

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SENATE RESOLUTION

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WHEREAS, The members of the Illinois Senate are saddened to learn of the death of Bernadette G. Nolan of Savannah, Georgia, formerly of Springfield, who passed away on October 13, 2021; and

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WHEREAS, Bernadette Nolan was born to Ernest "E.G." and Katherine "Katie" Gagnon in Pawtucket, Rhode Island on December 16, 1929; she had fond memories of Rhode Island, where she played on the beach with her brother Bobby in what is now Colt State Park in Bristol; her family moved to the Ozone Park area of New York when she was in middle school; she later married Brian Nolan; together, they settled in Springfield, where they established a medical practice and raised five children; they retired to Savannah, Georgia in 1990, and he preceded her in death on June 21, 2001; and

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WHEREAS, Bernadette Nolan was known for bringing an exceptional level of determination to every endeavor; she became an active golfer in Springfield, and she was named Springfield City Champion once and Illini Country Club Champion twice; she took up equestrian showing and jumping in her late 30s and early 40s, and she fostered a love for the sport in her daughter Sarah; and

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1           WHEREAS, Bernadette Nolan was actively engaged in the  
2 Springfield and Savannah communities and was a tireless  
3 fundraiser for charitable causes; she was a member of the  
4 Springfield Art Association, where she worked as chairman of  
5 the Art Fair in 1971; she worked at the inception and founding  
6 of Springboard, which later became the Springfield Area Arts  
7 Council, and she led the organization from 1978 to 1980; she  
8 was instrumental in securing the commitment of then-Governor  
9 Jim Thompson to tour the Dana-Thomas House when it was still  
10 owned by Thomas Publishing and at risk of being sold to private  
11 parties and dismantled, and that tour solidified Governor  
12 Thompson's pledge towards preserving the Frank Lloyd Wright  
13 prairie style masterpiece for the public; she was also  
14 appointed to the Illinois Arts Council (IAC) by Governor  
15 Thompson, advocating for Illinois arts and artists; she  
16 appeared as a member of the IAC before the U.S. House of  
17 Representatives Ways and Means Committee in the summer of  
18 1985, where she testified with actor Tony Randall on the  
19 importance of maintaining the business tax deduction for  
20 supporting art programs due to it being in danger of  
21 elimination by Congress; while in Georgia, she was a member of  
22 the local Savannah Rotary and volunteered to assist in the  
23 1996 Summer Olympic sailing events; and

24           WHEREAS, Bernadette Nolan consistently worked to help her  
25 community become a better place in which to live; her love of

1 the arts and dedication to volunteerism are legacies her  
2 children will endeavor to maintain; and

3 WHEREAS, Bernadette Nolan is survived by her children,  
4 Jane Denes (John Blythe), Michael Nolan (Kim Wylie), Maude  
5 (Phil) Brezinski, Sarah (Paul) Gary, and John Nolan (Lory  
6 Yates); her grandchildren, Katie, Bela, Annie, Elizabeth,  
7 Maggie, Matthew, Nolan, and Abigail; and her five  
8 great-grandchildren; therefore, be it

9 RESOLVED, BY THE SENATE OF THE ONE HUNDRED SECOND GENERAL  
10 ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, that we mourn the passing of  
11 Bernadette G. Nolan and extend our sincere condolences to her  
12 family, friends, and all who knew and loved her; and be it  
13 further

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