



SR1208

LRB102 29050 LAW 40956 r

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SENATE RESOLUTION

2           WHEREAS, The members of the Illinois Senate are saddened  
3 to learn of the death of Deborah Kay "Debbie" Maxwell of  
4 Springfield, who passed away on October 27, 2021; and

5           WHEREAS, Debbie Maxwell was born to Edna and Jimmie  
6 Reynolds in Springfield on June 28, 1952; she graduated from  
7 Springfield High School in 1970; she married Phil Maxwell on  
8 December 3, 1977, becoming the stepmother to Norman and Bruce;  
9 her family expanded when they had their daughters, Gretchen  
10 and Beth; she earned her Bachelor of Science in Education from  
11 MacMurray College in Jacksonville in 1990; over the years, her  
12 family hosted 20 exchange students from various countries, and  
13 they welcomed a Russian exchange student Dasha (Daria) in  
14 1994, who became a part of their family; and

15           WHEREAS, Although she had many jobs, Debbie Maxwell's true  
16 calling was loving and caring for children; she taught  
17 elementary school at Harvard Park and Owen Marsh for 10 years;  
18 she served as a mother figure to many, including friends,  
19 neighbors, students, church family, and anyone in need of  
20 nurturing; and

21           WHEREAS, Debbie Maxwell attended Southside Christian  
22 Church in her earlier years; as an adult, she was an active

1 member of Elliott Avenue Baptist Church and later Central  
2 Baptist Church in Springfield; she taught Sunday school,  
3 volunteered for a crisis pregnancy center, and participated in  
4 Christian Bible Fellowship and women's circle; she also cooked  
5 and served Wednesday night church dinners and hosted a yearly  
6 dinner and reception for the Millikin University Choir; and

7 WHEREAS, Debbie Maxwell loved music and sang in many  
8 groups through the years, including the women's barbershop  
9 chorus Harmony First, church choirs, the Maxwell family  
10 quartet, and the Illinois Symphony Chorus; she participated in  
11 the Fellowship of American Baptist Musicians Conference at  
12 Green Lake, Wisconsin for 26 years; she and her husband held  
13 season tickets for the Illinois Symphony Orchestra; she  
14 enjoyed art shows, museums, and theatrical performances,  
15 embracing all the arts and passing her love of art and culture  
16 to her children; and

17 WHEREAS, Debbie Maxwell was an avid gardener and loved her  
18 flowers, birds, gazing balls, fairy lights, whirligigs,  
19 pinwheels, and wind chimes; she enjoyed traveling and  
20 exploring the U.S. and abroad; she found joy in collecting  
21 beautiful things and selecting thoughtful gifts for others;  
22 her spiritual gift was hospitality, and her door was always  
23 open to visits from family, friends, and neighbors; she  
24 treasured baking with her children and grandchildren, and she

1 made cookie trays and delivered them to the post office  
2 workers at Christmas; she was a lifetime lover of animals and  
3 had many pets; her favorite canine companion was her  
4 Goldendoodle, Katie, who brought true joy to the last two  
5 years of her life; and

6 WHEREAS, Debbie Maxwell was a beloved wife, mother,  
7 grandmother, and friend to many; she was known for her way of  
8 making each person she knew and met feel special, seen, and  
9 loved; she will be remembered for her warm and fun presence  
10 lighting up the room through her smile, fashion, humor, and  
11 genuine joy in interacting with people; and

12 WHEREAS, At the time of her passing, Debbie Maxwell was  
13 survived by her husband, Phil; her daughters, Gretchen  
14 Phillips, Beth Maxwell, and Dasha (Daria) LaFave; her  
15 stepsons, Norman Maxwell and Bruce Maxwell; her mother, Edna  
16 Reynolds; her siblings, Coni Rogers and Lenny Reynolds; her  
17 best friend of over 40 years, Janette Bolin; her grandchildren  
18 Candice Maxwell, Veronica Rodriguez, Emily Maxwell, El  
19 Maxwell, Amelia Phillips, Anneliese Phillips, Megan Heinemann,  
20 and Henry LaFave; her nephews, Evan Stevens and Colin Rogers;  
21 her godchildren, Dawnita and Christlynn Jackson; and her many  
22 aunts, uncles, nieces, nephews, and cousins; therefore, be it

23 RESOLVED, BY THE SENATE OF THE ONE HUNDRED SECOND GENERAL

1 ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, that we mourn the passing of  
2 Deborah Kay "Debbie" Maxwell and extend our sincere  
3 condolences to her family, friends, and all who knew and loved  
4 her; and be it further

5 RESOLVED, That a suitable copy of this resolution be  
6 presented to the family of Debbie Maxwell as an expression of  
7 our deepest sympathy.