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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 Antje Heberle Kolodziej of Champaign, who passed away on September 25, 2022; and

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WHEREAS, Antje Kolodziej was born to Professor Rudolf Heberle and Franziska Toennies Heberle in Kiel, Germany on June 26, 1935; when she was three, she and her family emigrated from Germany to the United States to escape Hitler's Nazi regime; she grew up in Baton Rouge, Louisiana; she graduated from Mount Holyoke College in South Hadley, Massachusetts in 1957, having spent a year studying abroad year in Germany to complete her degree in Political Science; she married Edward Kolodziej in 1959; and

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WHEREAS, Antje Kolodziej moved to Chicago and worked as the associate director of a Ford Foundation adult program, where she promoted political education and discussions of the great books; after moving to Washington, D.C. with her husband, she assumed a post in the Department of Education as the associate director of a program to evaluate the academic credentials of Africans seeking admission to American colleges and universities; and

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WHEREAS, Antje Kolodziej focused on her family after

1 moving to Charlottesville, Virginia in 1962, having four sons;  
2 they lived there for 11 years, with periodic moves in between  
3 due to her husband's career, including a stay in Columbus,  
4 Ohio in 1964; they later lived in Paris, France between 1968  
5 and 1978; while there, she was elected to head the  
6 parent-teacher association of the French public school two of  
7 her sons attended; and

8 WHEREAS, After her sons were grown, Antje Kolodziej helped  
9 administer the Illinois-Austrian student exchange program and  
10 worked as a research assistant for Jim Nolan at the Institute  
11 of Government; she also skillfully edited and vetted all of  
12 her husband's books, multiple professional articles, and book  
13 chapters contributed to academic volumes; and

14 WHEREAS, Antje Kolodziej was actively engaged in public  
15 service; she was the campaign manager for Joan Severns'  
16 successful election as mayor of Champaign; she was a key  
17 member of the parents association that successfully lobbied to  
18 save Uni High School from being dismantled by the University  
19 of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign's Department of Education; she  
20 was instrumental in the election of a Champaign Council  
21 majority that supported the preservation of the art deco  
22 lights gracing many Champaign streets; she worked successfully  
23 with other community-minded Champaign residents to elect a  
24 visionary school board dedicated to saving Central High School

1 and to gain public approval for an unprecedented \$183 million  
2 school bond issue to bring the physical educational  
3 infrastructure of the school system up to date; and

4 WHEREAS, Antje Kolodziej was honored by the League of  
5 Women Voters for 50 years of service, during which she served  
6 as secretary periodically; she was also awarded the Loyalty  
7 Service Award by Mt. Holyoke College in 2022; and

8 WHEREAS, Antje Kolodziej loved reading; she was a skilled  
9 potter and a regular attending member of her knitting group;  
10 along with her husband, she visited most of the countries of  
11 Western and Eastern Europe, including celebrating her 50th  
12 birthday in Moscow; they also traveled to the Middle East,  
13 Central and Latin America, South and East Asia, India, Japan,  
14 and China; she was passionate about music; each year, she  
15 looked forward to subscribing to the Krannert Center's annual  
16 music and drama series and to frequently attending Station  
17 Theatre's programs; she also enjoyed keeping a diary and the  
18 company of her constant feline companions; and

19 WHEREAS, Antje Kolodziej will be remembered for her broad  
20 smile, infectious laugh, disarming humor, and welcoming  
21 disposition; and

22 WHEREAS, Antje Kolodziej was preceded in death by her son,

1 Peter; her parents; and her brothers, Hinnerk and Jurgen; and

2 WHEREAS, Antje Kolodziej is survived by her husband of 63  
3 years, Edward; her sons, Andrew (Jeannette), Matthew (Rachel),  
4 and Daniel (Shanon); her grandchildren, Zachary, Aiden,  
5 Sander, Charlie, Peter, Alexandra, Katarina, Colin, and Quinn;  
6 her cousin, Moya; her nieces, Denise, Julie, Renee, and  
7 Lauren; and her nieces' children; therefore, be it

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

13 RESOLVED, That a suitable copy of this resolution be  
14 presented to the family of Antje Kolodziej as an expression of  
15 our deepest sympathy.