



SR1330

LRB102 29665 LAW 41704 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 Johanna "Hanny" Leitson, who passed away on April 1, 2022 at the age of 96; and

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WHEREAS, Hanny Leitson was born to Charlotte and Max Gross in Vienna, Austria, where she also spent her childhood years; she fled Austria at the age of 13 on the Kindertransport, an emergency transport of 10,000 Jewish children from Germany, Austria, and Czechoslovakia to England in May 1939; she lived with a family in Cheltenham, England until 1944, when she traveled to New York City at the age of 19 to be with her mother; and

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WHEREAS, Hanny Leitson earned her Bachelor of Arts in Social Work and her Master of Social Work from the University of Michigan in Ann Arbor; she worked as a social worker and therapist in Flint, Michigan; following the death of her husband, the late Morton "Mort" Leitson, she worked as a therapist in Ann Arbor; and

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WHEREAS, Hanny Leitson was socially and politically engaged throughout her life, beginning as a teenager during World War II with Young Austria, an organization of exiled Austrians living in England dedicated to a free and democratic

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1 Austria; she became a civil rights activist while a university  
2 student and, later, while living in Flint; she was also an  
3 early opponent of the Vietnam War, attending the first  
4 nationwide Day of Protest against the war in Chicago in 1964;  
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6 WHEREAS, Hanny Leitson was committed to assisting her  
7 community; she helped establish the Flint chapter of Planned  
8 Parenthood; she also aided low-income seniors living in shared  
9 affordable homes while in Ann Arbor; and

10 WHEREAS, Hanny Leitson was a wonderful and valued listener  
11 who loved talking with and being supportive of friends and  
12 family; and

13 WHEREAS, Hanny Leitson spent the last 14 years of her life  
14 in Oak Park, Illinois; and

15 WHEREAS, At the time of her passing, Hanny Leitson was  
16 survived by her children, Karen (Jeffrey) Grabelsky, Mark  
17 (Pamela) Leitson, and Ruth (Martin) Tatarka; her  
18 grandchildren, Leah Grabelsky, Shira Grabelsky, Jenny (Scott  
19 Macguffin) Grabelsky, Sarah Leitson, Joshua Leitson, and David  
20 Leitson; and her great-grandchild, Finnean Macguffin;  
21 therefore, be it

1           RESOLVED, BY THE SENATE OF THE ONE HUNDRED SECOND GENERAL  
2 ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, that we mourn the passing of  
3 Johanna "Hanny" Leitson and extend our sincere condolences to  
4 her family, friends, and all who knew and loved her; and be it  
5 further

6           RESOLVED, That a suitable copy of this resolution be  
7 presented to the family of Hanny Leitson as an expression of  
8 our deepest sympathy.