



HR0775

LRB098 19127 MST 54625 r

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HOUSE RESOLUTION

2 WHEREAS, The members of the Illinois House of
3 Representatives are pleased to congratulate Kristina A.
4 Valaitis on her retirement as executive director of the
5 Illinois Humanities Council on January 31, 2014; and

6 WHEREAS, Kristina Valaitis, a resident of Chicago and
7 alumni of Northern Illinois University, has been an exceptional
8 fixture of the Illinois Humanities Council since 1979, where
9 she started as an Editorial Assistant and Program Liaison for
10 Southern and Western Illinois; and

11 WHEREAS, Kristina Valaitis's skills and leadership led to
12 her being named Executive Director in 1993, and since then has
13 dutifully spearheaded the Illinois Humanities Council's
14 mission to make sure the humanities continue as a vital part of
15 the lives of individuals and communities in Illinois; and

16 WHEREAS, During Kristina Valaitis's tenure as Executive
17 Director, the council grew from its role as a grant-maker to
18 becoming a producer of programs and initiatives that each year
19 engage 600,000 Illinoisans, encourage informed exchanges about
20 contemporary issues and make rich experiences in the humanities
21 accessible to both rural and urban Illinois audiences; and

1 WHEREAS, Kristina Valaitis has not limited her civic
2 contributions to the Illinois Humanities Council; she has
3 served on the boards of the Federation of State Humanities
4 Councils, the Chicago Metro History Education Center, the
5 Illinois Center for the Book, and she was vice-chair of the
6 Northern Illinois University Foundation and of the Donors
7 Forum; she has served on the Illinois Abraham Lincoln
8 Bicentennial Commission, as corresponding editor of Federation
9 Review: The Journal of the State Humanities Councils, and is
10 also a member of The Chicago Network; and

11 WHEREAS, Through this involvement, Kristina Valaitis has
12 received numerous awards including the Volunteer Service Award
13 from the Northern Illinois University Foundation, the Golden
14 Anniversary Alumni Award from NIU College of Liberal Arts, and
15 the 2010 Distinguished Alumni Award, College of Liberal Arts
16 and Sciences, from the NIU Alumni Association; and

17 WHEREAS, The arts and humanities enhance every aspect of
18 life in Illinois -- they improve our economy, enrich our civic
19 life, drive tourism, and exert a profound positive influence on
20 the education of our children; and

21 WHEREAS, We celebrate those who help foster opportunities
22 for creativity, imagination, self-expression, and
23 problem-solving skills while also helping to develop a

1 heightened appreciation of beauty and cross-cultural
2 understanding; and

3 WHEREAS, Kristina Valaitis's tireless advocacy and her
4 dedication to the public humanities and the people of Illinois
5 -- not to mention her infectious laugh and eclectic style --
6 will be missed at the Illinois Humanities Council as she
7 marches triumphantly towards her life's next chapter;
8 therefore, be it

9 RESOLVED, BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE
10 NINETY-EIGHTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, that
11 we recognize Kristina A. Valaitis on her retirement as
12 executive director of the Illinois Humanities Council, thank
13 her for her many years of service to the residents of Illinois,
14 and wish her well in all her future endeavors; and be it
15 further

16 RESOLVED, That a suitable copy of this resolution be
17 presented to Kristina Valaitis as an expression of our esteem
18 and respect.