



HR1320

LRB098 23152 GRL 62143 r

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HOUSE RESOLUTION

2           WHEREAS, The members of the Illinois House of  
3 Representatives are pleased to congratulate Willard R.  
4 Helander on the occasion of her retirement as Lake County Clerk  
5 on November 30, 2014 after 20 years of dedicated service; and

6           WHEREAS, Willard Helander graduated with honors, earning a  
7 Bachelor's Degree in 1974 from the University of Mississippi;  
8 she subsequently earned a Juris Doctor from the University of  
9 Tennessee College of Law in 1977 and was initiated into the  
10 public sector in 1977, when she held a judicial clerkship for  
11 the Tennessee Civil Court of Appeals; and

12           WHEREAS, After moving to Illinois, working in the trust and  
13 probate field, and raising her 3 children, Willard Helander  
14 returned to the public sector in 1992 and became the founding  
15 Executive Director of the Transportation Management  
16 Association of Central Lake County, where she served with  
17 distinction until seeking public office; and

18           WHEREAS, Willard Helander was first elected as the Lake  
19 County Clerk in 1994; during her tenure, she continually  
20 challenged herself and her staff to provide superior customer  
21 service; and

1           WHEREAS, Willard Helander oversaw the implementation of  
2 technology and automation in the Clerk's Office, including  
3 optical scan voting, an expansion of voting options for people  
4 with disabilities, early voting, and the piloting of the first  
5 internet reporting of election results in the State of  
6 Illinois, one of only 2 counties in the State to do so in 1996;  
7 and

8           WHEREAS, Due to Willard Helander's pioneering leadership  
9 in the technological field, the Lake County Clerk's Office  
10 received the "Most Innovative Technology" award through the  
11 International Association of Clerks, Recorders, Elected  
12 Officials, and Treasurers in recognition of the County's  
13 internally-created geographic information system software,  
14 which was used during the millennial census for redistricting  
15 purposes and resulted in a savings of \$500,000 to taxpayers;  
16 and

17           WHEREAS, Willard Helander is highly regarded in her field  
18 and is a member of multiple professional associations,  
19 including the International Association of Clerks, Recorders,  
20 Elected Officials, and Treasurers, the Illinois Association of  
21 County Clerks and Recorders, and the Joint Elected Officials  
22 Liaison Committee; she is also a member of the Illinois State  
23 Bar Association and is a past member of the State Board of  
24 Elections Advisory Committee; and

1           WHEREAS, Willard Helander has been a vocal proponent of  
2 maintaining accuracy, fairness, and integrity in the election  
3 process; and

4           WHEREAS, In addition to her commitment as a public servant,  
5 Willard Helander is an active participant in her community and  
6 serves on the boards of many civic organizations, including  
7 MainStreet Libertyville, Inc., the Boys and Girls Club of Lake  
8 County, Community Action Partnership, the Salvation Army Adult  
9 Rehabilitation Center, Youth and Family Counseling, and the  
10 Daughters of the American Revolution; therefore, be it

11           RESOLVED, BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE  
12 NINETY-EIGHTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, that  
13 we congratulate Willard R. Helander on the occasion of her  
14 retirement and wish her continued success and happiness in the  
15 future; and be it further

16           RESOLVED, That a suitable copy of this resolution be  
17 presented to Willard Helander as a symbol of our esteem and  
18 respect.