



HR0626

LRB098 14477 MST 49197 r

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HOUSE RESOLUTION

2 WHEREAS, The members of the Illinois House of
3 Representatives are saddened to learn of the death of Donna Mae
4 (nee Smith) Watson, who passed away on August 25, 2013; and

5 WHEREAS, Donna Watson was born in East Saint Louis on May
6 5, 1937 to Wiley E. and Ethel (nee Rigney) Smith, Jr.; she
7 graduated from Dupou Community High School on May 27, 1955; and

8 WHEREAS, Donna Watson enlisted in the United States Army on
9 April 25, 1957 and completed her basic military training at
10 Fort McCellan, Alabama on July 3, 1957; she qualified in the
11 Teletype Operation Course at the U.S. Army Southeastern Signal
12 School in Fort Gordon, Georgia on August 30, 1957; she received
13 the Good Conduct Medal during her service and was a member of
14 the Women's Army Corps until her honorable discharge on April
15 24, 1959, achieving the rank of Specialist 4; she was proud
16 that she served her country, and being a veteran became
17 especially important to her in her later years; and

18 WHEREAS, Donna Watson married George E. Watson at the First
19 Baptist Church in Wood River on August 26, 1960; and

20 WHEREAS, Donna Watson was employed as a Mental Health
21 Technician IV at the Alton Mental Health Center, retiring in

1 1999; and

2 WHEREAS, Donna Watson believed in the importance of
3 education, graduating from Lewis and Clark Community College in
4 1973 with an Associate of Arts Degree, graduating with honors;
5 she had an inherent love of politics and often shared her
6 earliest memories of listening to both the Democratic and
7 Republican conventions on the radio as a small child; her
8 interest in politics continued into adulthood as she served as
9 a Republican Precinct Committeewoman in the early 1970s; and

10 WHEREAS, Donna Watson's most cherished memories were of
11 helping her mother raise her younger siblings, Sarah "Cindy"
12 and Elsa, and then when she became a mother, raising her own
13 children; she spent many summers at Van Preter Park in East
14 Alton, watching her daughters and sons play softball and
15 baseball; she felt her greatest achievements were her children
16 and grandchildren; and

17 WHEREAS, Donna Watson was preceded in death by her parents;
18 her husband, George; her maternal grandparents, Edward and Anna
19 Rigney; and her paternal grandparents, Wiley E. and Elsa M.
20 Smith; and

21 WHEREAS, Donna Watson is survived by her daughters, Stacia
22 (Leonard) Woods and Donna (Steven) Pantone; her sons, Todd

1 (Erin) Watson and Maxx (fiancee Jeanette Kassay) Watson; her
2 grandchildren, Rigney Sanders, Matthew Sanders, Donna "Toni"
3 Pantone, Megan Watson, Zackary Watson, Braydon Hensley, Jady
4 Watson, Emily Watson, Parker Watson, Reily Kassay, and
5 Christian Kassay; her sisters, Sarah "Cindy" (Daniel) Robien
6 and Elsa (James) Lewis; and her nieces, nephews, great-nieces,
7 and great-nephews; therefore, be it

8 RESOLVED, BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE
9 NINETY-EIGHTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, that
10 we mourn the passing of Donna Mae Watson and extend our sincere
11 condolences to her family, friends, and all who knew and loved
12 her; and be it further

13 RESOLVED, That suitable copies of this resolution be
14 presented to the family of Donna Watson as an expression of our
15 deepest sympathy.