



HR1525

LRB099 24149 MST 51832 r

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HOUSE RESOLUTION

2 WHEREAS, The members of the Illinois House of
3 Representatives are pleased to honor our esteemed colleague,
4 State Representative Katherine Cloonen, and thank her for her
5 dedicated service to our State and her community; and

6 WHEREAS, Representative Cloonen has lived in Kankakee
7 County for more than 40 years; she and her husband, Gary,
8 raised their two daughters, Jacquelyn and Kelly, on their
9 family farm in Bonfield; and

10 WHEREAS, Representative Cloonen taught music for 16 years
11 in the Herscher and Reddick school districts before starting
12 her own small business, JK Steel Erectors, Inc.; as owner of a
13 small construction company, she created more than 100 local
14 union jobs; and

15 WHEREAS, Upon her election to the Illinois House of
16 Representatives in 2012, Representative Cloonen took her 25
17 years of business experience creating jobs, balancing budgets,
18 and negotiating contracts to the State Capitol; she has worked
19 with local and State employers to help revitalize the local
20 economy and cut the local unemployment rate in half; she passed
21 legislation to help bring a one billion dollar Competitive
22 Power Ventures energy plant to Grundy County, and fought to

1 revitalize the Army Aviation Readiness Center project in
2 Kankakee; and

3 WHEREAS, Representative Cloonen worked throughout her time
4 in the General Assembly to remain in touch with the needs and
5 concerns of local residents by constantly speaking with them at
6 their homes, on the phone, and in her constituent service
7 office; she worked to regularly bring services to the people of
8 the 79th Representative District and help constituents
9 navigate State government to receive quality service; and

10 WHEREAS, Representative Cloonen has been an advocate for
11 education, securing greater funding for local schools and
12 fighting for quality preschool to secondary education for local
13 communities; she worked closely with superintendents and
14 principals and advocated for greater investments in community
15 colleges, including Kankakee Community College, job training
16 programs and career and technical education programs; and

17 WHEREAS, Representative Cloonen, the wife of a Vietnam
18 veteran, has been a tireless advocate for Illinois veterans and
19 active military personnel and their families; she sponsored and
20 passed legislation making it easier for returning veterans to
21 further their education, obtain job training and secure
22 civilian jobs; she fought for greater resources for the Manteno
23 Veterans Home as well as organizations serving the local

1 veterans community; therefore, be it

2 RESOLVED, BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE
3 NINETY-NINTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, that we
4 thank State Representative Katherine Cloonen for her dedicated
5 service; and be it further

6 RESOLVED, That a suitable copy of this resolution be
7 presented to Representative Cloonen as an expression of our
8 respect, esteem, and best wishes.