



SR1609

LRB099 20844 MST 45604 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 Margaret Sandner Eyre, who passed away on January 13, 2016; and

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WHEREAS, Margaret Eyre was born on May 9, 1918 to Ed and Elisabeth Sandner, Austrian immigrants who arrived in the United States just before World War I; she attended Immaculate Conception Grammar School and was inducted into the National Honor Society at York High School; upon her graduation in 1936, she attended Gregg Business College; she married Leonard W. Eyre in 1943 in Norfolk, Virginia and they settled in Elmhurst; and

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WHEREAS, Margaret Eyre's first job was working for the Donnelley Publishing Company; later, she became the office manager for the Metropolitan Life Insurance Company in Elmhurst; she and her husband ran a successful general contracting business; they became licensed real estate brokers and were honored with recognition and publicity about the beautiful homes they built in LaGrange, Western Springs, Hinsdale, and Burr Ridge; in 1970, they moved to Woodstock and started a small rental business that has continued for 45 years; and

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1           WHEREAS, Margaret Eyre was a member of the Mothers Club,  
2 the membership secretary of the Fine Arts Club at the Opera  
3 House, and was a volunteer at the Woodstock Hospital; she and  
4 her friend, Donna Strain, became the first female Elks (not  
5 Does) at the Elks Club in Woodstock; and

6           WHEREAS, In 1988, Margaret Eyre became active in her son's  
7 business, Rich's Foxwillow Pines Nursery; her specialty was  
8 hostas and she propagated the plants and sold them for Heifer  
9 International; she raised over \$500,000 for world hunger,  
10 allowing Heifer to buy farm animals for people around the world  
11 with the agreement that those farmers would give what they  
12 received and pass on the gift to others in their communities;  
13 some of those funds were donated to the Heifer International  
14 Foundation, where the funds remain in perpetuity and the  
15 interest is given to projects in Ghana, Mozambique, Rwanda,  
16 Haiti, and Bolivia; she received a Gill Ark Award in 2004 for  
17 her Hosta Happening Sales and the Heifer Certificate of Service  
18 Award in 2010; she had an army of volunteers to help her in the  
19 hosta patch and she had her own regular customers who came to  
20 purchase her hosta varieties; she was known as the "Hosta  
21 Queen"; she was thrilled when Tom Michiletti, former President  
22 of the American Hosta Society, hybridized a hosta and named it  
23 "Margaret Eyre"; she worked every day at the nursery until she  
24 was 93 years old; and

1           WHEREAS, On December 21, 2015, Mano a Mano International  
2 presented Margaret Eyre with a plaque for a school in Sora  
3 Sora, Bolivia, dedicated in her honor for her years of work on  
4 behalf of the people of Bolivia; the school is scheduled to be  
5 completed by April of 2016; and

6           WHEREAS, Margaret Eyre was preceded in death by her  
7 husband, Leonard; and

8           WHEREAS, Margaret Eyre is survived by her son and his wife,  
9 Richard and Susan Eyre; many cousins, nieces, and nephews; and  
10 numerous friends and customers; therefore, be it

11           RESOLVED, BY THE SENATE OF THE NINETY-NINTH GENERAL  
12 ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, that we mourn the passing of  
13 Margaret Sandner Eyre, and extend our sincere condolences to  
14 her family, friends, and all who knew and loved her; and be it  
15 further

16           RESOLVED, That a suitable copy of this resolution be  
17 presented to the family of Margaret Eyre as an expression of  
18 our deepest sympathy.