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LRB104 21807 LAW 37527 r

1 HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION

2 WHEREAS, It is highly fitting that the members of the
3 Illinois General Assembly recognize the accomplishments and
4 contributions made by exceptional officials and citizens of
5 the State of Illinois; and

6 WHEREAS, Former State Representative and House Majority
7 Leader Barbara Flynn Currie was a 40-year veteran of the
8 Illinois House of Representatives and the first woman to hold
9 the post of Majority Leader of the Illinois House; and

10 WHEREAS, Rep. Flynn Currie was born the daughter of
11 Francis and Elsie Flynn in LaCrosse, Wisconsin on May 3, 1940;
12 at the age of seven, she and her family moved to Chicago's
13 South Side, where she attended St. Thomas the Apostle Catholic
14 School and the University of Chicago Lab High School; she
15 attended the University of Chicago before withdrawing to marry
16 in 1960; she later returned, earning her Bachelor of Arts and
17 Master of Arts in Political Science in 1968 and 1973,
18 respectively, while raising young children; and

19 WHEREAS, Rep. Flynn Currie was first elected to the
20 Illinois House's 24th District in 1978, becoming one of just
21 21 women then in the Illinois General Assembly; her district
22 changed to the 26th District in 1983 and the 25th District in

1 1993, and it encompassed Hyde Park, Woodlawn, South Shore, and
2 Kenwood; she was appointed as majority leader in 1997, where
3 she routinely proved herself through preparation, discipline,
4 and intellect; during her tenure, she chaired the special
5 21-member bipartisan committee that recommended the
6 impeachment of Governor Rod Blagojevich in 2009; while she
7 retired from the Illinois House in early 2019, she continued
8 to remain involved in State government and politics; and

9 WHEREAS, Throughout her distinguished service, Rep. Flynn
10 Currie was a tireless promoter of active, engaged, effective
11 government who was trusted and respected for her keen
12 intellect, fairness, and balance; considered the first
13 progressive legislator of Illinois, she became known as a
14 vigorous proponent of liberal causes, including prohibiting
15 sexual harassment and guaranteeing maternity leave in the
16 workplace, and she delivered on issues involving raising the
17 minimum wage, expanding early childhood education funding,
18 advancing gun safety reform, and securing Illinois as a safe
19 haven for reproductive rights; she spearheaded a compromise on
20 welfare reform, helped extend state contracts to
21 minority-owned and female-owned businesses, and led
22 negotiations on campaign finance reform and criminal justice
23 reform; she was especially known for her work to advance
24 equity through the Earned Income Tax Credit and Equal Pay Act;
25 and

1 WHEREAS, Outside of the Illinois House of Representatives,
2 Rep. Flynn Currie worked as vice president for the Chicago
3 League of Women Voters from 1965 to 1969; later, she taught
4 government at DePaul University, was an assistant study
5 director at the National Opinion Research Center, and served
6 as chairman of the Illinois Pollution Control Board, a
7 position she held until her passing; she also helped organize
8 the Illinois Women in Leadership Training Academy (IWILTA),
9 which has since prepared generations of women to run for
10 public office; and

11 WHEREAS, Rep. Flynn Currie passed away on April 16, 2026
12 at the age of 85; she was the wife of the late David Park
13 Currie, the mother of two children, Stephen and Margaret, the
14 grandmother of four, and the mentor and friend of many; and

15 WHEREAS, Rep. Flynn Currie was an iconic, pioneering
16 public servant, a master negotiator, and a meticulous,
17 pragmatic legislator who led Illinois through some of its
18 darkest moments, making it stronger; her unwavering commitment
19 to service left an indelible mark on the Illinois politics
20 that continues to this day, with there now being 78 women
21 serving in the General Assembly; and

22 WHEREAS, For her work and her impact on the State of

1 Illinois, Rep. Flynn Currie deserves having her likeness
2 memorialized in the form of a portrait that hangs on the walls
3 of the State Capitol Building, inspiring generations to come;
4 therefore, be it

5 RESOLVED, BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE
6 HUNDRED FOURTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, THE
7 SENATE CONCURRING HEREIN, that we urge the Office of the
8 Architect of the Capitol to oversee the design and creation of
9 a portrait for the State Capitol Building of the late former
10 State Representative and House Majority Leader Barbara Flynn
11 Currie, a trailblazer in State politics whose work improved
12 the lives of countless Illinoisans while expanding
13 opportunities for generations of women.