



HR0421

LRB104 14363 LAW 27497 r

1 HOUSE RESOLUTION

2 WHEREAS, The members of the Illinois House of
3 Representatives are saddened to learn of the death of Sister
4 Rosemary Connelly, RSM, who passed away on June 19, 2025; and

5 WHEREAS, Sister Rosemary was born to Bridget and Peter V.
6 Connelly in Chicago on February 23, 1931; she was raised in a
7 family rooted in deep faith and service; as a child, she
8 attended Chicago parochial schools and taught in several
9 Archdiocesan schools while continuing her studies; she joined
10 the Sisters of Mercy when she was 18 years old; she earned a
11 Bachelor of Social Science from St. Xavier University in 1959,
12 a Master of Arts in Sociology from St. Louis University in
13 1966, and a Master of Social Work from Loyola University
14 Chicago in 1969; and

15 WHEREAS, Sister Rosemary, as a Sister of Mercy, served her
16 community as a teacher, a social worker, and the administrator
17 of Misericordia Heart of Mercy with love, joy, and gratitude;
18 she was appointed to the role of administrator at Misericordia
19 on Chicago's South Side in 1969 at a time when there were no
20 services for children with disabilities, leading her to
21 establish a variety of programs designed to help children
22 achieve the highest level of independence possible; she, 35
23 dedicated staff members, and 39 children moved to the former

1 site of Angel Guardian Orphanage on the North Side of Chicago
2 at 6300 North Ridge in 1976; for 56 years, she guided
3 Misericordia through enormous growth, affecting and ultimately
4 changing the lives of thousands of children, families, and
5 supporters in the process; through her efforts, Misericordia
6 serves more than 600 children and adults with intellectual and
7 developmental disabilities today; and

8 WHEREAS, Sister Rosemary devoted her life to the community
9 that has become the Misericordia of today, a loving and caring
10 environment that provides a full continuum of care and
11 life-enriching programs for individuals from diverse racial,
12 religious, and socioeconomic backgrounds with a wide range of
13 abilities; she was instrumental in developing a compassionate
14 and holistic approach to caring for people with intellectual
15 and developmental disabilities and set the tone for
16 Misericordia, believing in the potential of each and every
17 individual and in their right to life and one worth living; she
18 oversaw a far-reaching program that has become one of the
19 nation's leading communities for children and adults with
20 intellectual and developmental disabilities, and Misericordia
21 now includes not only 600 residents but also an Outreach
22 Program, a staff of 1,200 employees, and thousands of
23 volunteers both on and off campus; and

24 WHEREAS, Sister Rosemary was awarded the University of

1 Notre Dame's 2023 Laetare Medal, considered the oldest and
2 most prestigious honor given to an American Catholic; she also
3 received numerous awards, accolades, and honorary degrees
4 throughout her life; and

5 WHEREAS, Sister Rosemary was known for her humility,
6 commending her staff and volunteers for their achievements
7 before her own, and she will be remembered as a visionary who
8 made a positive impact on the lives of countless individuals
9 and their families; and

10 WHEREAS, Sister Rosemary was the sister of the late Marie
11 (the late Ed) O'Brien, Kathryn (the late Robert) Connolly, the
12 late Donald Connelly, the late Joe (the late Patricia)
13 Connelly, and the late Patricia "Pat" (the late Bob) Martin;
14 and the aunt to many nieces, nephews, grandnieces,
15 grandnephews, great-grandnieces, and great-grandnephews;
16 therefore, be it

17 RESOLVED, BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE
18 HUNDRED FOURTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, that
19 we mourn the passing of Sister Rosemary Connelly, RSM and
20 extend our sincere condolences to her family, friends, and all
21 who knew and loved her; and be it further

22 RESOLVED, That a suitable copy of this resolution be

1 presented to the family of Sister Rosemary as an expression of
2 our deepest sympathy.