



HR0503

LRB104 15841 LAW 29053 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 Jean Dolores Schmidt of the Sisters of Charity of the Blessed  
5 Virgin Mary (BVM), the iconic chaplain of the Loyola  
6 University Chicago men's basketball team, the Ramblers, who  
7 passed away on October 9, 2025 at the age of 106; and

8 WHEREAS, Sister Jean was born Dolores Bertha Schmidt to  
9 Joseph and Bertha (Bowman) Schmidt in San Francisco,  
10 California on August 21, 1919; she entered the BVM in Dubuque,  
11 Iowa on September 8, 1937, taking the name Sister Jean  
12 Dolores; and

13 WHEREAS, Sister Jean taught at several Catholic schools in  
14 Chicago, Los Angeles, California, and North Hollywood,  
15 California before coming to teach at Mundelein College in  
16 Chicago in 1961; over the next 30 years, she held numerous  
17 roles at Mundelein College until the educational institution  
18 affiliated with Loyola University Chicago in 1991; she engaged  
19 in an academic advisor role with the men's basketball team in  
20 1993, and she later transitioned to the position of team  
21 chaplain; she long maintained a key role in supporting the  
22 Ramblers, offering both spiritual support and practical advice  
23 on the players' game performance; and

1       WHEREAS, Sister Jean, though long known for her many roles  
2       at Loyola University Chicago, became an international  
3       celebrity at the age of 98 during the 2018 NCAA March Madness  
4       tournament when she accompanied the Ramblers as they reached  
5       the Final Four for the first time since the program's historic  
6       1963 national championship season; cheering for the team from  
7       the sidelines, her presence as team chaplain captured the  
8       attention of the media; she became one of the most  
9       talked-about topics of the 2018 tournament, and merchandise  
10      featuring her likeness and her motto of "Worship, Work, Win"  
11      sold swiftly; and

12      WHEREAS, Sister Jean, in addition to her work with the  
13      Ramblers, also held weekly prayer groups for students and  
14      started a program called SMILE (Students Moving Into the Lives  
15      of the Elderly), which paired Loyola students with residents  
16      of The Clare, an assisted living community on the Water Tower  
17      campus that she called home for many years; and

18      WHEREAS, Sister Jean co-authored her memoir, Wake Up with  
19      Purpose!: What I've Learned in My First Hundred Years, with  
20      Seth Davis, which was published in February 2023; and

21      WHEREAS, Sister Jean received a number of honors and  
22      accolades, including being inducted into the Loyola University

1 Chicago Athletics Hall of Fame in 2017 and awarded the Sword of  
2 Loyola in 2018; she was further recognized by church and world  
3 leaders for her joy and service; for her 100th birthday, she  
4 received an Apostolic Blessing from Pope Francis; at her 103rd  
5 birthday celebration on August 21, 2022, she received the  
6 honor of the Loyola CTA Red Line plaza being renamed after her,  
7 with proclamations from both Governor JB Pritzker and Chicago  
8 Mayor Lori E. Lightfoot dedicating the day in her honor; on her  
9 105th birthday, she received a proclamation from President Joe  
10 Biden in recognition of her lifetime of service; and

11 WHEREAS, Sister Jean was a woman of prayer, a dedicated  
12 educator, and a bearer of hope who loved her BVM community; she  
13 will be remembered as an invaluable source of wisdom, love,  
14 compassion, and grace to generations of Loyola University  
15 Chicago students, faculty, and staff; and

16 WHEREAS, Sister Jean was preceded in death by her parents  
17 and her brothers, Edward and Raymond Schmidt; and

18 WHEREAS, Sister Jean is survived by her sister-in-law,  
19 Margaret Schmidt; her nieces and nephews; and her fellow BVM  
20 sisters; therefore, be it

21 RESOLVED, BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE  
22 HUNDRED FOURTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, that

1 we mourn the passing of Sister Jean Dolores Schmidt of the  
2 Sisters of Charity of the Blessed Virgin Mary (BVM), the  
3 iconic chaplain of the Loyola University Chicago men's  
4 basketball team, the Ramblers, and extend our sincere  
5 condolences to her family, friends, and all who knew and loved  
6 her; and be it further

7       RESOLVED, That a suitable copy of this resolution be  
8 presented to the family of Sister Jean as an expression of our  
9 deepest sympathy.