



HR0714

LRB104 20849 RMO 34451 r

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HOUSE RESOLUTION

2           WHEREAS, The members of the Illinois House of  
3 Representatives are saddened to learn of the death of Dorothy  
4 Jane Cobb Keller of Jacksonville, who passed away on January  
5 22, 2026, with burial taking place at Jacksonville Calvary  
6 Cemetery; and

7           WHEREAS, Dorothy Keller was born to Charles and Helen  
8 Graef Cobb in Jacksonville on February 1, 1929; she attended  
9 Our Saviour Grade School and graduated from what is now Routt  
10 Catholic High School in 1947; she continued her education at  
11 Illinois College and was an active member of Gamma Delta  
12 Literary Society, serving as president during her junior year;  
13 she earned a degree in English in 1951, graduating with honors  
14 as a member of Phi Beta Kappa; she married Paul Keller in  
15 Jacksonville in 1955; and

16           WHEREAS, WHEREAS, Dorothy Keller taught fourth grade at  
17 South Jacksonville Grade School; she dedicated several years  
18 to teaching reading classes at Our Saviour Grade School; she  
19 later served as a substitute teacher at various local schools,  
20 a role she found deeply rewarding; and

21           WHEREAS, Dorothy Keller participated in numerous civic,  
22 church, and arts organizations, including the Morgan County

1 Democrats, Catholic Daughters of America, Right to Life, the  
2 NAACP, the Jacksonville Theatre Guild, and the League of Women  
3 Voters, where she served as president; she and Paul were  
4 committed advocates for civil rights beginning in the 1960s  
5 and were recognized by the Jacksonville African American  
6 Museum at its 2022 opening; and

7 WHEREAS, Dorothy Keller took her role as family matriarch  
8 seriously; she and her husband raised their children in her  
9 maternal grandmother's former home; she was a devoted  
10 caregiver to her grandmother, parents, and aunt; she lovingly  
11 cared for her husband until his passing in 2004; she was  
12 devoted to her children and grandchildren, attending many  
13 sporting events and continuing to be a fan of local teams; and

14 WHEREAS, Dorothy Keller never stopped making new friends,  
15 and her social calendar was always full; she showcased her  
16 hostess skills in the many gatherings held in her home,  
17 including New Year's Eve and election night parties, card  
18 games with her bridge group, and many family functions; and

19 WHEREAS, Dorothy Keller was preceded in death by her  
20 husband, Paul; her sisters, Lois Maloney, Catherine  
21 Kazmierczak, and Helen Jones; her brother-in-law, Bill  
22 Maloney; her brother and sister-in-law Alvin (Doris) Keller;  
23 her sisters-in-law, Betty Cobb and Emily Keller; and her

1 nephews, Bradley Jones and Steve Keller; and

2 WHEREAS, Dorothy Keller is survived by her children, Dirk  
3 Keller, Chris (Leigh Ann) Keller, Julie (John) Mangano, and  
4 Lisa (Scott) Reed; her brother, Tony Cobb; and many  
5 grandchildren, great-grandchildren, nieces, and nephews whom  
6 she loved dearly; therefore, be it

7 RESOLVED, BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE  
8 HUNDRED FOURTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, that  
9 we mourn the passing of Dorothy Jane Cobb Keller and extend our  
10 sincere condolences to her family, friends, and all who knew  
11 and loved her; and be it further

12 RESOLVED, That a suitable copy of this resolution be  
13 presented to the family of Dorothy Keller as an expression of  
14 our deepest sympathy.