



HR0876

LRB104 21575 MST 37007 r

1 HOUSE RESOLUTION

2 WHEREAS, The members of the Illinois House of
3 Representatives are saddened to learn of the death of former
4 Illinois State Representative Rosemary Magner Kurtz of Crystal
5 Lake, who passed away on April 1, 2026; and

6 WHEREAS, Rep. Kurtz was born to Walter and Florence Magner
7 on August 11, 1930; after her mother's passing, her
8 stepmother, Laretta Rowe, joined the family and became
9 instrumental in her development; she was a student government
10 leader at the University of Oklahoma, received her master's
11 degree from Kansas University, and did PhD work at the
12 University of Iowa; during the 1960s in Davenport, Iowa, she
13 marched and protested the Vietnam War, worked with other
14 parents to set up a multi-racial summer camp, and helped elect
15 the first woman mayor; and

16 WHEREAS, Rep. Kurtz was a high school and college Spanish
17 teacher for decades and taught English to migrant workers in
18 the 1970s; she finished her teaching career at District 155;
19 and

20 WHEREAS, Rep. Kurtz was president of the local chapter of
21 the League of Women Voters; she served on the Crystal Lake
22 Zoning Board from the 1970s through the 1990s, focusing on

1 protection of the Crystal Lake watershed; her first elected
2 position was treasurer of Crystal Lake; and

3 WHEREAS, Rep. Kurtz was elected to the Illinois House of
4 Representatives at the age of 70, where she cast the deciding
5 vote for a landmark anti-discrimination law, challenged
6 unnecessary spending, brought back millions of State dollars
7 to improve McHenry County school systems, and maintained a
8 perfect pro-environment voting record; and

9 WHEREAS, Rep. Kurtz was elected to District 155 School
10 Board at the age of 85; and

11 WHEREAS, Rep. Kurtz was a parishioner of St. Thomas and
12 St. Elizabeth Ann Seton churches for 55 years; and

13 WHEREAS, Rep. Kurtz was preceded in death by her husband,
14 Jim Kurtz; her father, Walter Wagner; her stepmother, Lauretta
15 Rowe Wagner; her mother, Florence Harrington Wagner; her
16 brother, Bill Wagner; and her sister-in-law, Rita; and

17 WHEREAS, Rep. Kurtz is survived by her daughters, Jennifer
18 (Tom) Kurtz Crooks, Donna Kurtz (Paul Minkus), and Tamara
19 Kurtz; her grandchildren, Jim (Tracy) Crooks, Caitlin Crooks
20 (Bea Ronan), Alison Crooks (Elijah Smith), and Tavi Minkus;
21 her great-grandchildren, Mckenzie Rose Crooks and Rosemary Ann

1 Smith; therefore, be it

2 RESOLVED, BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE
3 HUNDRED FOURTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, that
4 we mourn the passing of former Illinois State Representative
5 Rosemary Magner Kurtz and extend our sincere condolences to
6 her family, friends, and all who knew and loved her; and be it
7 further

8 RESOLVED, That a suitable copy of this resolution be
9 presented to the family of Rep. Kurtz as a symbol of our
10 deepest sympathy.