



SR0295

LRB104 13481 MST 25920 r

1 SENATE RESOLUTION

2 WHEREAS, The members of the Illinois Senate are saddened
3 to learn of the death of Mary Jo Copeland, who passed away on
4 April 17, 2025; and

5 WHEREAS, Mary Jo Copeland was born in Cropwell, Alabama to
6 Earlie and Annie O'Neal on December 16, 1936; she moved to
7 Decatur in 1956 and married Edward "Eddie" Copeland; and

8 WHEREAS, Mary Jo Copeland worked for many years at GE
9 Manufacturing before beginning a second career at Decatur
10 Township and always carried herself with dignity, integrity,
11 and a deep sense of commitment; and

12 WHEREAS, Mary Jo Copeland was a lifelong and faithful
13 member of Antioch Missionary Baptist Church, where she served
14 as an usher and choir member; she was also an esteemed member
15 of St. Mary's Chapter #65 Order of the Eastern Star in Decatur;
16 and

17 WHEREAS, Mary Jo Copeland was a legendary cook, known far
18 and wide for her homemade dressing, creamy macaroni and
19 cheese, and sweet potato pies, which brought family and
20 friends together around the table; and

1 WHEREAS, Mary Jo Copeland was an avid sports fan, and she
2 often spent her weekends watching college basketball, college
3 football, and professional football; and

4 WHEREAS, Mary Jo Copeland had a unique gift for making
5 people feel special; her honest words and heartfelt presence
6 left a lasting impression on all who knew her, and her presence
7 always made things better; and

8 WHEREAS, Mary Jo Copeland was preceded in death by her
9 parents; her husband, Edward "Eddie" Copeland; her brother,
10 Lenford O'Neal; and her sister, Irene Butler; and

11 WHEREAS, Mary Jo Copeland is survived by her son, Mylas
12 (Casey) Copeland; her grandchildren, Aesen and Darby Copeland;
13 her siblings, Thelma Jones, James (Mollie) O'Neal, and
14 Earnestine O'Neal; her sister, Marcelene Ragland; and numerous
15 nieces, nephews, great-nieces, great-nephews, cousins, and
16 friends; therefore, be it

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

1 RESOLVED, That a suitable copy of this resolution be
2 presented to the family of Mary Jo Copeland as an expression of
3 our deepest sympathy.