



SR0435

LRB104 13753 MST 26492 r

1 SENATE RESOLUTION

2 WHEREAS, The members of the Illinois Senate are saddened
3 to learn of the death of Mary Anne Brown of River Forest, who
4 passed away on May 11, 2025 at the age of 80; and

5 WHEREAS, Mary Anne Brown was born in Cincinnati, Ohio to
6 Ruth and Dwight Broeman on December 25, 1944 and attended
7 Rosarian Academy in West Palm Beach, Florida; and

8 WHEREAS, Upon her graduation, Mary Anne Brown became a
9 novice with the Dominican Sisters in Adrian, Michigan, later
10 leaving the order to pursue her education at Clarke College in
11 Dubuque, Iowa and then graduate studies in child psychology at
12 the University of Iowa; and

13 WHEREAS, Mary Anne Brown met her future husband, Max
14 Douglas Brown, in Iowa City, and they were married on July 14,
15 1973, making their home in Oak Park; and

16 WHEREAS, Mary Anne Brown served several years as director
17 of the South Austin Community Day Care, and in 1976, she
18 accepted the position of executive director of Hephzibah Home
19 in Oak Park, where she dedicated herself to the work of helping
20 children and their families in the area; and

1 WHEREAS, Mary Anne Brown formed countless partnerships in
2 order to strengthen the community, including with local
3 schools to facilitate day care for working mothers and with
4 Oak Park police to create a social service program for day care
5 families in crisis; and

6 WHEREAS, Mary Anne Brown continued her life of service as
7 the Hephzibah Home accepted HIV-positive babies in the foster
8 care program, established a residential program and an
9 adoption program, and was one of the first agencies to
10 facilitate adoption by same sex couples; and

11 WHEREAS, Thousands of children, families, and working
12 mothers have been benefactors of Mary Anne Browns's loving,
13 inclusive, and non-judgmental approach to families in crisis,
14 with the people in the community referring to her as a secular
15 saint; she retired from the Hephzibah Home in 2017; and

16 WHEREAS, Mary Anne Brown is survived by her husband, Max
17 Brown, and their son, Cuyler Brown; her three grandsons, CJ,
18 Harrison, and Palmer; her sisters, Ina Broeman and Bonnie
19 Carpenter; and her brothers, Dwight Broeman, Charles Broeman,
20 and Roland Broeman; therefore, be it

21 RESOLVED, BY THE SENATE OF THE ONE HUNDRED FOURTH GENERAL
22 ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, that we mourn the passing of

1 Mary Anne Brown and extend our sincere condolences to her
2 family, friends, and all who knew and loved her; and be it
3 further

4 RESOLVED, That a suitable copy of this resolution be
5 presented to the family of Mary Anne Brown as an expression of
6 our deepest sympathy.