



HR0933

LRB101 22942 LAW 74041 r

1 HOUSE RESOLUTION

2 WHEREAS, The members of the Illinois House of
3 Representatives wish to congratulate Roberta Koscielski,
4 Deputy Director of the Peoria Public Library, for being named
5 the 2020 Librarian of the Year by the Illinois Library
6 Association; and

7 WHEREAS, Roberta Koscielski earned her Associate of
8 Science in LAS (Mathematics) from Illinois Valley Community
9 College in May 1979; she obtained her Bachelor of Arts in
10 Linguistics from the University of Illinois at
11 Urbana-Champaign in May 1981; she earned her Master of Science
12 in Library and Information Science from the University of
13 Illinois at Urbana-Champaign in August 1982; and

14 WHEREAS, Roberta Koscielski has worked for the Peoria
15 Public Library for over 35 years; prior to her current role as
16 deputy director, she held positions as the Lakeview branch
17 manager and as grant coordinator; and

18 WHEREAS, Roberta Koscielski has been an active attendee and
19 presenter at Illinois Library Association (ILA) conferences;
20 she presented a session titled Building Community Awareness of
21 the Heroin/Opiates Epidemic in 2017; she was one of four
22 presenters at the session Addressing the Opioid Epidemic: What

1 Libraries Need to Know during the 2018 conference; and

2 WHEREAS, Roberta Koscielski spearheaded a committee to
3 create Peoria Reads!, a successful one city, one book program;
4 she partnered with Common Place, an organization in which she
5 volunteered as an adult literacy tutor and was a board member,
6 to form Peoria Reads!; she joined the board of Neighborhood
7 House, another local organization, after it partnered with
8 Common Place; she also volunteers and serves as a board member
9 of the Peoria Area Literacy Coalition; and

10 WHEREAS, Roberta Koscielski was nominated by Common Place
11 and was selected to receive a Volunteer Service Award from
12 President George W. Bush in January 2007, which President Bush
13 presented to her while she stood at the foot of Air Force One;
14 she received a Prescott E. Bloom Memorial Distinguished Service
15 Award for volunteering in January 1993; and

16 WHEREAS, In 2012, Roberta Koscielski was asked by the mayor
17 of Peoria and the state's attorney to support the city's new
18 initiative to decrease gang violence by promoting the book
19 Don't Shoot: One Man, a Street Fellowship, and the End of
20 Violence in Inner-City America by David M. Kennedy; her
21 assistance led the Peoria Public Library to become a larger
22 part of this initiative by hosting city meetings and "call-ins"
23 with offenders; and

1 WHEREAS, In 2016, Roberta Koscielski was asked again by the
2 city to promote the book Dreamland: The True Tale of America's
3 Opiate Epidemic by Sam Quinones; she saw the importance in
4 public awareness of the opioid epidemic, especially after three
5 patrons overdosed at the Peoria Main Library; she trained
6 library staff administration on the use of naloxone or Narcan
7 to reverse the effects of an overdose and trained her staff to
8 recognize the signs of an overdose and respond; and

9 WHEREAS, Roberta Koscielski's work on promoting awareness
10 of the opioid epidemic and training staff earned her a place as
11 one of Library Journal's Movers and Shakers in 2018; she was
12 also recognized in U.S. News & World Report as one of the "new
13 first responders" in the opioid epidemic in January 2019;
14 therefore, be it

15 RESOLVED, BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE
16 HUNDRED FIRST GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, that
17 we congratulate Roberta Koscielski on being named the 2020
18 Librarian of the Year, and we commend her for her dedication to
19 the Peoria Public Library and her volunteerism for various
20 community service initiatives; and be it further

21 RESOLVED, That a suitable copy of this resolution be
22 presented to Roberta Koscielski as an expression of our esteem

1 and respect.