



SR1254

LRB101 21602 MST 72532 r

1

SENATE RESOLUTION

2

WHEREAS, The members of the Illinois Senate are saddened to learn of the death of Barbara Alexander Mullarkey, who passed away on April 15, 2020 at the age of 84; and

3

4

5

WHEREAS, Barbara Mullarkey was born on August 1, 1935 in Oak Park to Olive (Kennedy) and Benjamin Alexander; she graduated from Ascension School in 1949, Trinity High School in 1953, and Rosary College (now Dominican University) in 1957; her Trinity and Rosary friendships lasted throughout her lifetime and were highlighted by cherished reunions every summer that spanned over 60 years; and

6

7

8

9

10

11

12

WHEREAS, Barbara Mullarkey worked at Commonwealth Edison after college, demonstrating new-era electric appliances at a time when women were just starting the fight for work force equality; a true trailblazer, she had a company car and an expense account; and

13

14

15

16

17

WHEREAS, Barbara Mullarkey met her future husband, John Mullarkey, while at ComEd, and they planted deep roots in Oak Park with their five children on the infamous 200 block of South Elmwood with a colorful group of neighbors who would quickly become and remain a family; with over 100 children living on the block, she became the organizer of iconic block

18

19

20

21

22

1 parties that were the highlight of the kids' summers, including  
2 water balloon wars and epic block-wide scavenger hunts, as well  
3 as "Spooktacular" haunted houses at Halloween; and

4 WHEREAS, Barbara Mullarkey was a fixture at Ascension  
5 School and St. Luke School, Lincoln Elementary, Roosevelt  
6 Middle School, WSSRA, Oak Park-River Forest youth programs, and  
7 Oak Park River Forest High School, where she was one of their  
8 longest-tenured sports fans; she attended over 1,000 games and  
9 traveled over 10,000 miles, supporting her grandkids and their  
10 teammates and loving every minute of it; she knew the coaches,  
11 refs, umpires and scorekeepers and was never afraid to share  
12 her opinions and statistics; and

13 WHEREAS, Barbara Mullarkey advocated for the most  
14 vulnerable and felt strongly about lending her voice and energy  
15 to causes that protected the environment; she was not afraid to  
16 express her perspective and concerns with presidents,  
17 senators, congressmen, village presidents, trustees, and state  
18 senators, including regular, vigorous, and enthusiastic  
19 communiques to one Senator Don Harmon; and

20 WHEREAS, Barbara Mullarkey championed many nutrition,  
21 health, and wellness causes; her crusades involved educating  
22 others on ingredients and chemicals in our food, drink, and  
23 medicine supply, banning pesticides in parks, raising

1 awareness of the harmful effects of AstroTurf, fighting  
2 fracking and smart meters, advocating removal of mercury from  
3 vaccines, raising mental health awareness, and promoting  
4 alternative medicine ideologies, such as acupuncture, massage,  
5 and homeopathy; and

6 WHEREAS, Barbara Mullarkey had many passions that included  
7 being a founding member and nutrition columnist for the  
8 Wednesday Journal, a journalist for Oak Park News, Conscious  
9 Choice, and Vegetarian Times, a proud supporter of Maryville  
10 Academy, Oak Leyden Developmental Services, and WSSRA, an  
11 advocate for prison food reform, a charter member of Handy  
12 Hands, a tireless Ascension School volunteer, and an OPRF  
13 Huskie Booster Club member; she supported IVAC, the Oak Park  
14 Environmental Network, and HOPP and was a Nutrivoice editor;  
15 she was the author of Bittersweet Aspartame: A Diet Delusion,  
16 and a children's book agent; and

17 WHEREAS, Barbara Mullarkey was true to herself and all  
18 those she loved; if she had one wish, she would want everyone  
19 to be good to themselves and others, living by the Shakespeare  
20 quote "To thine own self be true"; and

21 WHEREAS, Barbara Mullarkey adored her family and was  
22 treasured by her friends to whom she was a confidant and  
23 advisor; she was known for her generous spirit, warmth,

1 kindness, and inquisitive soul, and her true legacy is her 11  
2 grandchildren whom she considered her proudest  
3 accomplishments; and

4 WHEREAS, Barbara Mullarkey was preceded in death by John T.  
5 Mullarkey, and her sisters, Elizabeth Alexander, Lorraine  
6 (Bob) Carpenter, Mary Clare, and Regina Alexander; and

7 WHEREAS, Barbara Mullarkey is survived by her devoted  
8 children, John Patrick, Ellen (Scott) Nelson, Daniel (Lauren  
9 Sherman), Karen (Marty) Kerrins, and Ann (Daniel) Ganschow; her  
10 grandchildren, Kiley, Allie, Maeve, Grace, Johnny, Riley,  
11 Keegan, Regan, Patrick, Connor, and Declan; her many nieces,  
12 nephews and cousins; and many friends; therefore, be it

13 RESOLVED, BY THE SENATE OF THE ONE HUNDRED FIRST GENERAL  
14 ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, that we mourn the passing of  
15 Barbara Alexander Mullarkey and extend our sincere condolences  
16 to her family, friends, and all who knew and loved her; and be  
17 it further

18 RESOLVED, That a suitable copy of this resolution be  
19 presented to the family of Barbara Mullarkey as an expression  
20 of our deepest sympathy.