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HOUSE RESOLUTION

WHEREAS, In 1988, Illinois' Bonnie Blair won a gold medal in the 500-meter speed skating event held at the Winter Olympics in Calgary, a great concrete wall snaked through the heart of Berlin, The Cosby Show and Roseanne were the highest-rated shows on U.S. television, and Ronald Reagan was the President of the United States; and

WHEREAS, In that same year, Elizabeth "Liz" Laird started her career with the Illinois General Assembly as a legislative page; and

WHEREAS, Choosing for mysterious and unfathomable reasons to continue in General Assembly life as a career, Elizabeth Laird worked as a legislative secretary for several House Republican members who themselves had illustrious careers, including then-State Representative Lolita Didrickson, who became the elected Comptroller of Illinois; and

WHEREAS, Elizabeth Laird was asked by House Republican Chief of Staff Mike Stokke to become his secretary and executive assistant, and since that time, for over two decades, she has been the operational manager for nine House Republican Chiefs of Staff; and

1           WHEREAS, Elizabeth Laird has seen six governors of  
2 Illinois come and go, all while continuing to operate and  
3 guard the southwest corner of the third floor of the State  
4 Capitol in Springfield; and

5           WHEREAS, Elizabeth Laird has seen Illinois through a time  
6 of tumult and change, during which the State has endured the  
7 impeachment of a governor, a multi-year budget crisis, and the  
8 elevation of one of its lawmakers to the office of President of  
9 the United States; and

10           WHEREAS, During these times, Elizabeth Laird's calm  
11 determination and unfailing courtesy have helped keep things  
12 going for everyone around her; and

13           WHEREAS, In a culmination of plans that she has had for a  
14 long time, Elizabeth Laird will now leave the service of the  
15 Illinois General Assembly to rejoin her family, who are  
16 congregating in a place far away from Springfield; and

17           WHEREAS, Elizabeth Laird's colleagues are so grateful for  
18 her service that they have determined to take the risk of  
19 thoroughly embarrassing her by voicing and adopting this  
20 tribute; and

21           WHEREAS, Elizabeth Laird should be assured that despite

1 the words of this tribute, she has already protected herself  
2 against the danger of getting a swelled head; in response to  
3 this possibility, she plans to move to Flathead country in the  
4 northwest part of the Big Sky State of Montana, where the birds  
5 sing, the buffalo roam, and the mountains look down from  
6 above; therefore, be it

7       RESOLVED, BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE  
8 HUNDRED SECOND GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, that  
9 we congratulate Elizabeth "Liz" Laird, Executive Assistant to  
10 the House Republican Chief of Staff, upon her retirement; and  
11 be it further

12       RESOLVED, That we ask her to talk up Illinois among her  
13 future neighbors, as she leaves us with the same good wishes as  
14 we heartily extend to her; and be it further

15       RESOLVED, That a suitable copy of this resolution be  
16 presented to Elizabeth Laird as a symbol of our respect and  
17 esteem.