



SR0502

LRB102 19984 LAW 28769 r

1

SENATE RESOLUTION

2

WHEREAS, The members of the Illinois Senate are saddened to learn of the death of Ann M. Laurence of Springfield, who passed away on August 17, 2021; and

3

4

5

WHEREAS, Ann Laurence was born in Freeport to Howard and Frances Laurence on March 24, 1948; she graduated from Freeport High School in 1966; she attended Highland Community College and the University of Illinois Circle Campus in Chicago; she married Ross Richardson in Lake City, Colorado in August 1973; and

6

7

8

9

10

11

WHEREAS, Ann Laurence worked at a public relations firm in Chicago for a time before joining the fledgling Dan Walker for Governor campaign as volunteer coordinator in 1971; she ran for delegate to the Democratic Convention in Miami in 1972 and won an unexpected victory when the luck of the draw gave her a top ballot position in a crowded field; she was profiled along with others by Newsweek magazine as a representative of the cosmic demographic shift from 1968 for delegates to the Democratic National Convention; she attended the convention and proudly voted to nominate George McGovern for president; she moved to Springfield to join the Dan Walker administration in 1973, where she served as assistant to Director John Houlihan of the Illinois Department of Veterans Affairs; and

12

13

14

15

16

17

18

19

20

21

22

23

1           WHEREAS, Alongside her husband, Ann Laurence opened The  
2           Feed Store on the Old Capitol Plaza in downtown Springfield in  
3           1977; their restaurant quickly became a popular lunch spot and  
4           hosted locals and visitors for 43 years, including prominent  
5           politicians and celebrities; they decided to retire when the  
6           pandemic shut restaurants across Illinois, and they closed the  
7           restaurant in July 2020; and

8           WHEREAS, Ann Laurence spent her life fighting for equality  
9           and reproductive rights for women; while never elected to  
10          public office, she ran unsuccessfully for office twice, she  
11          actively participated in campaigns at all levels; she believed  
12          that everyone bears a responsibility to participate in civic  
13          life, and she acted accordingly; and

14          WHEREAS, Ann Laurence was the beloved wife, mother,  
15          friend, and mentor to many; she loved music, especially folk  
16          music, and never missed the Midnight Special radio program  
17          broadcast by WFMT; her two passions were food and politics,  
18          and she found fulfillment in both pursuits throughout her busy  
19          and productive life; and

20          WHEREAS, Ann Laurence was preceded in death by her parents  
21          and her brother, Howard Laurence; and

1           WHEREAS, Ann Laurence is survived by her husband of 48  
2 years, Ross Richardson, and her son, Daniel (Haley Klitzing)  
3 Laurence-Richardson; therefore, be it

4           RESOLVED, BY THE SENATE OF THE ONE HUNDRED SECOND GENERAL  
5 ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, that we mourn the passing of  
6 Ann M. Laurence and extend our sincere condolences to her  
7 family, friends, and all who knew and loved her; and be it  
8 further

9           RESOLVED, That a suitable copy of this resolution be  
10 presented to the family of Ann Laurence as an expression of our  
11 deepest sympathy.