



HR0168

LRB103 31610 ECR 59934 r

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HOUSE RESOLUTION

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WHEREAS, The members of the Illinois House of Representatives wish to congratulate Sister Rosemary Connelly on receiving the 2023 Laetare Award from the University of Notre Dame; and

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WHEREAS, Sister Rosemary Connelly walked through Misericordia's doors for the first time in August of 1969; and

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WHEREAS, Sister Rosemary Connelly identified that there were no goals or challenges for the children to grow emotionally, psychologically, and educationally; and

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WHEREAS, Sister Rosemary Connelly contacted experts in academia and government, requesting their help in developing services and programs, but was told at every turn there were not programs for children with developmental disabilities; and

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WHEREAS, Being told she should create her own programs for children with developmental disabilities, Sister Rosemary Connelly did, including building classrooms for primary education and developing programs for self-help skills, speech and physical therapy, and recreational activities; and

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WHEREAS, In 1976, Sister Rosemary Connelly was in the

1 process of looking for a home for ambulatory children who did
2 not require skilled nursing services that were provided at
3 Misericordia; she sought a home-like setting where the
4 children could develop independence; and

5 WHEREAS, The Archdiocese of Chicago offered a portion of
6 the ceased 31-acre campus of the Angel Guardian Orphanage to
7 Sister Rosemary Connelly, and she moved into the "North
8 Campus" with 39 children; and

9 WHEREAS, Over 1,200 staff members and thousands of
10 volunteers serve at the present Misericordia campus in the
11 Rogers Park neighborhood of Chicago, serving over 600 children
12 and adult residents; and

13 WHEREAS, The University of Notre Dame's president, Rev.
14 John I. Jenkins, announced that Sister Rosemary Connelly will
15 receive the 2023 Laetare Medal at the university's upcoming
16 commencement ceremony; and

17 WHEREAS, This recognition is named for its announcement
18 occurring during the celebration of Laetare Sunday, the fourth
19 Sunday of Lent in the Catholic Church, and the medal has the
20 inscription "Magna est veritas et praevallebit" meaning "Truth
21 is mighty, and it shall prevail" in Latin; and

1 WHEREAS, The University of Notre Dame established this
2 award in 1883 as an American counterpart to the Golden Rose
3 papal honor and is awarded at Notre Dame to a Catholic "whose
4 genius has ennobled the arts and sciences, illustrated the
5 ideals of the Church and enriched the heritage of humanity";
6 and

7 WHEREAS, In his announcement of this award, Rev. Jenkins
8 of Notre Dame stated that Sister Rosemary Connelly, with her
9 characteristic tenacity, grace, and genius, has ensured that
10 the residents of Misericordia have the quality of life and
11 opportunities they deserve; and

12 WHEREAS, Sister Rosemary Connelly transitioned to
13 chairwoman of the board of the Misericordia Foundation from
14 her previous role as executive director; and

15 WHEREAS, Sister Rosemary Connelly has stated she is
16 thankful that Misericordia exists, serving as a place where
17 the children are respected and loved and the staff is very
18 committed to them; therefore, be it

19 RESOLVED, BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE
20 HUNDRED THIRD GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, that
21 we congratulate Sister Rosemary Connelly on receiving the 2023
22 Laetare Award from the University of Notre Dame and for her

1 years of commitment and success to Misericordia Home; and be
2 it further

3 RESOLVED, That a suitable copy of this resolution may be
4 presented to Sister Rosemary Connelly as an expression of our
5 esteem and respect.