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HOUSE RESOLUTION

WHEREAS, The members of the Illinois House of Representatives are saddened to learn of the death of Donna S. Phillips, who passed away on January 10, 2010; and

WHEREAS, Donna Phillips was born in Decatur to Howard and Evelyn Phillips, who preceded her in death; she earned her bachelor's degree in physical education from Eastern Illinois University in 1964, her master's degree in physical education from Western Illinois University in 1967, and her Ph.D. from Ohio State University in 1977; and

WHEREAS, Donna Phillips had a long and distinguished career at Western Illinois University; she began her career at WIU in the fall of 1967 as an instructor in physical education; throughout her career, she taught activity, theory, and jazz dance courses; in 1973, she was promoted to assistant professor; in 1979, she was promoted to associate professor; in 1987, she was promoted to professor; and

WHEREAS, In 1985, when Western Illinois University's men's and women's physical education departments combined into one department, Donna Phillips became the department's undergraduate program coordinator; she served as department chair from July 1, 1993 until her retirement on March 31, 2004

1 after 37 years of service; and

2 WHEREAS, Donna Phillips has been credited with starting  
3 Western Illinois University's fitness education program (now  
4 called the exercise science program), which was featured in the  
5 October 1988 edition of the Journal of Physical Education,  
6 Recreation and Dance (JOPERD); during her tenure, the athletic  
7 training education program received a letter of initial  
8 accreditation from the Commission of Accreditation of Allied  
9 Health Education Programs (1999), becoming one of less than 100  
10 accredited programs in the U.S. at that time; and

11 WHEREAS, Throughout her career at Western Illinois  
12 University, Donna Phillips served on numerous departmental,  
13 college, university, State, and national committees; she was a  
14 member of several North Central Accreditation teams; she served  
15 the Illinois Association of Health, Physical Education,  
16 Recreation and Dance (IAHPERD) as chair of the physical  
17 education state curriculum committee and as a past president;  
18 she was an active member of the national American Association  
19 of Health, Physical Education, Recreation and Dance (AAHPERD);  
20 and

21 WHEREAS, Donna Phillips was the recipient of numerous  
22 accolades for her service at Western Illinois University,  
23 including the former College of Health, Physical Education and

1 Recreation Outstanding Teacher Award in 1989 and the IAPHERD  
2 Service Award in 1992; she was also a recipient of WIU Faculty  
3 Excellence Awards during both of those years; in 1992, she was  
4 named to Who's Who in American Education; in 1994, she was  
5 initiated into Western's chapter of Phi Kappa Phi; she was one  
6 of 45 women who were featured in the "Women of Western  
7 Centennial Photographic Exhibit" during Western's Centennial  
8 celebration in 1999-2000; in the fall of 2002, she was  
9 presented with the AAHPERD College and University  
10 Administrators Council's (CUAC) Honor Award, based on her  
11 professional involvement at the State, district, and national  
12 levels; she was cited for her service to the profession through  
13 CUAC and her leadership on the American Association for Active  
14 Lifestyles and Fitness (AAALF) executive board and awards  
15 committee; she was a recipient of the IAHPERD service award;  
16 she was also the recipient of the 2004 WOW Achievement Award  
17 from the Western Organization for Women; and

18 WHEREAS, Donna Phillips was one of the first 2 women  
19 inducted into the WIU Athletics Hall of Fame in 1989; she was a  
20 highly successful badminton coach from 1971 to 1983, guiding  
21 WIU's teams to 8 of 9 Association of Intercollegiate Athletics  
22 for Women (AIAW) national tournaments; she coached Western to  
23 3rd place nationally in 1972; from 1975 to 1983, she led more  
24 than a dozen competitors to the quarterfinal rounds in AIAW  
25 national tournaments; she served as host and tournament

1 director for 2 AIAW nationals in Macomb in 1975 and 1981; she  
2 was also active in the National Collegiate Badminton Coaches'  
3 Council, where she served a term as chair; and

4 WHEREAS, Donna Phillips was a member of the Board of  
5 Directors for Western Illinois University's State University  
6 Annuitants Association (SUAA), where she had served as past  
7 president; she was also a member of Small Paws Rescue Inc., a  
8 rescue organization for Bichons; and

9 WHEREAS, Donna Phillips enjoyed skiing, playing tennis,  
10 and riding her horse; she was a member of the Macomb Road  
11 Runners and Western's Harry Mussatto Golf Course; therefore, be  
12 it

13 RESOLVED, BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE  
14 NINETY-SIXTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, that we  
15 mourn, along with her family and friends, the passing of Donna  
16 S. Phillips; and be it further

17 RESOLVED, That a suitable copy of this resolution be  
18 presented to the family of Donna Phillips as an expression of  
19 our sympathy.