



HR1515

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HOUSE RESOLUTION

2 WHEREAS, The members of the Illinois House of
3 Representatives are saddened to learn of the death of Janina
4 Monkute Marks of Chicago, who passed away on November 13, 2010;
5 and

6 WHEREAS, She was born in 1923 to a railroad worker's family
7 in Radviliskis, Lithuania; in 1939, her family moved to
8 Kedainiai where she became a child actress and studied drama at
9 the National Theater of Kaunas; in 1944, she was separated from
10 her parents and sent to refugee camps in Czechoslovakia; there,
11 she married a friend, Martynas Nagys; after the Allied bombing
12 of Dresden, they went to Austria and worked as laborers in a
13 sanatorium for German soldiers until the end of the war; and

14 WHEREAS, After three years, Mrs. Marks learned that her
15 sister was living in Freiburg, Germany, and moved to join her;
16 she enrolled in a postwar art school run by Lithuanian refugee
17 artists and studied drawing, painting, and weaving; in 1949,
18 she immigrated to Kennebunkport, Maine, with her husband and
19 young son, Sigi, under sponsorship of the Franciscan Fathers;
20 she left Maine for Chicago, where she found friends from
21 Lithuania forming the Lithuanian Theater Company; and

22 WHEREAS, In Chicago, her marriage to Nagys ended in

1 divorce; shortly thereafter, she met and fell in love with a
2 jeweler, Ira Marks and they married in 1953, raising three sons
3 of their own, along with Sigi Nagys; once settled in Chicago's
4 Hyde Park neighborhood, Mrs. Marks returned to art, taking
5 classes and becoming an active member at the Hyde Park Art
6 Center; and

7 WHEREAS, Later, she became one of the leaders of the
8 Lithuanian Woman Artists Association in Chicago; her works were
9 shown at the Art Institute of Chicago, the North Shore Art
10 League of Winnetka, the Dunes Arts Foundation of Michigan City,
11 the Balzekas Museum of Lithuanian Culture, and the Lithuanian
12 Museum of Art in Lemont; in 1970, after several critics
13 suggested her paintings would make splendid tapestries, she
14 returned to weaving; and

15 WHEREAS, When her husband developed symptoms of
16 Alzheimer's disease, she weaved a series of tapestries in rich,
17 dark colors that touched on themes of sadness and isolation
18 with titles like "Watching and Waiting" and "Why Can't I Fly?";
19 after her husband died in 2000, she focused her energy on
20 opening a museum and transferring all her work to Lithuania; in
21 October of 2001, she traveled to Lithuania for the grand
22 opening of the Janina Monkute Marks Museum; and

23 WHEREAS, Janina Monkute Marks is survived by her four sons,

1 Sigi Nagys, and Daniel, Peter, and Paul Marks; and her 10
2 grandchildren; therefore, be it

3 RESOLVED, BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE
4 NINETY-SIXTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, that we
5 mourn, along with her family and friends, the passing of Janina
6 Monkute Marks; and be it further

7 RESOLVED, That a suitable copy of this resolution be
8 presented to the family of Janina Monkute Marks as a symbol of
9 our sincere sympathy.