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HOUSE RESOLUTION

2 WHEREAS, The members of the Illinois House of
3 Representatives are pleased to thank Kate Francis for her work
4 as President and Managing Director of the Orpheum Theatre in
5 Galesburg; and

6 WHEREAS, Kate Francis earned her bachelor's degree in
7 philosophy from Monmouth College in May of 1992; and

8 WHEREAS, Prior to her work at the Orpheum Theatre, Kate
9 Francis was employed as Assistant to the Vice President for
10 External Affairs at the St. Louis Symphony Orchestra
11 (2001-2002), Campaign Manager at the St. Louis Symphony
12 Orchestra (2002-2003), Director of Development at the Arizona
13 Opera in Tucson, Arizona (2003-2006), and College Advancement
14 Officer at Monmouth College (2006-2007); and

15 WHEREAS, Kate Francis has served as President and Managing
16 Director of the Orpheum Theatre since April of 2007; in this
17 capacity, she oversaw all venue, administrative, programming,
18 contract, and box office operations for the historic 950-seat
19 performing arts and civic facility; during her tenure, the
20 theatre has reached unprecedented heights of growth and
21 prosperity; and

1 WHEREAS, Under the leadership of Kate Francis, the Orpheum
2 Theatre posted positive, profitable operating budgets in
3 fiscal years 2009 and 2010 and increased overall contributed
4 income by 359% between 2007 and 2010; she was also instrumental
5 in increasing the theatre's facility rental income by 200%
6 between 2007 and 2010 and increased ticket revenue by 7%
7 between 2007 and 2010; and

8 WHEREAS, During Kate Francis' tenure, the Grow Orpheum
9 Theatre Lights! Camera! Learn! education/outreach program grew
10 from a 2007 attendance of 1,211 to a 2010 attendance of 6,688,
11 a 552% increase; she also helped initiate the theatre's
12 ARTS4ALL program, which provides complimentary Red Carpet
13 Series tickets to underserved, socio-economically challenged
14 members of the community; and

15 WHEREAS, Kate Francis has been a member of numerous
16 community organizations, including the Galesburg 175th
17 Anniversary Planning Commission and the Illinois Main Street
18 Annual Awards Conference's Local Planning Committee (2011),
19 the Galesburg Christian School Publicity Committee
20 (2010-present), the Illinois Arts Council's Presenting Program
21 Advisory Panel (2009-present), the Galesburg Convention &
22 Visitors Bureau, the Galesburg Noon Lion's Club
23 (2008-present), the Kappa Kappa Gamma Stewart House Museum
24 Advisory Committee (2008-present), the Downtown Galesburg

1 Revitalization Study Advisory Council (2009), the Galesburg
2 Chamber of Commerce (2007-present), the Galesburg Regional
3 Economic Development Association's Business Retention Task
4 Force (2008-2009), and the Western Illinois Economic
5 Development Partnership (2006-2007); and

6 WHEREAS, Kate Francis serves as a model of hard work,
7 integrity, and dedication for the people of the State of
8 Illinois; therefore, be it

9 RESOLVED, BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE
10 NINETY-SEVENTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, that
11 we thank Kate Francis for her work as President and Managing
12 Director of the Orpheum Theatre and wish her continued success
13 and happiness in her future endeavors; and be it further

14 RESOLVED, That a suitable copy of this resolution be
15 presented to Kate Francis as a symbol of our esteem and
16 respect.