



HR1082

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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 former
4 First Lady, Anne Frances "Nancy" Reagan, who passed away on
5 March 6, 2016 at the age of 94; and

6 WHEREAS, Nancy Reagan was born in New York, New York on
7 July 6, 1921; she lived with her aunt and uncle in Bethesda,
8 Maryland for a short while, eventually moving to Chicago to
9 live with her mother and adoptive father; and

10 WHEREAS, Nancy Reagan attended the Girls Latin School in
11 Chicago from 1929 to 1939; she attended Smith College in
12 Northampton, Massachusetts from 1939 to 1943, where she earned
13 a bachelor's degree in dramatic arts; and

14 WHEREAS, Following graduation, Nancy Reagan returned to
15 Chicago and held jobs as a sales clerk in Marshall Field's
16 department store and as a nurse's aide; and

17 WHEREAS, Nancy Reagan began her acting career when she was
18 cast in a non-speaking role in the TV series, "Ramshackle Inn";
19 after another minor role in the musical, "Lute Song", she
20 landed a contract with Metro Goldwyn Mayer for parts in 11
21 feature films, including "The Doctor and the Girl", her first

1 film; and

2 WHEREAS, Nancy Reagan married Ronald Reagan, a native of
3 Tampico, and then President of the Screen Actors Guild on March
4 4, 1952; and

5 WHEREAS, Nancy Reagan and Ronald had two children, Patricia
6 Ann Reagan and Ronald Prescott Reagan; after her marriage, she
7 continued her acting career in three more films; and

8 WHEREAS, After Ronald Reagan was elected Governor of
9 California in 1967, Nancy Reagan began working on numerous
10 causes, including lobbying and fundraising efforts on behalf of
11 Vietnam War servicemen who were Prisoners of War or Missing in
12 Action; she also looked after the welfare of returned and
13 wounded Vietnam War veterans; and

14 WHEREAS, Nancy Reagan donated her salary to the National
15 League of Families of American POW-MIA; she regularly visited
16 state institutions that cared for physically and emotionally
17 handicapped children and for the elderly, where she first made
18 contact with the therapy-based "Foster Grandparent Program",
19 which she went on to promote throughout California and the
20 nation; she also authored her own syndicated column; and

21 WHEREAS, In 1980 and 1984, Nancy Reagan made appearances

1 and speeches on behalf of her husband's presidential candidacy,
2 reflecting the increased role of candidates' spouses; and

3 WHEREAS, As First Lady, Nancy Reagan focused on updating
4 the White House floors, doors, and other areas that needed
5 attention such as a new china set in an effort to formalize
6 entertaining; after completing these projects, she focused her
7 efforts on social issues such as the Foster Grandparents
8 Program and drug education and prevention programs; and

9 WHEREAS, Nancy Reagan traveled nearly 250,000 miles
10 throughout the United States and around the world to visit
11 various prevention programs and rehabilitation centers and to
12 meet with individuals and make television appearances; she
13 recorded public service announcements and authored guest
14 articles; and

15 WHEREAS, Those trips lead to the creation of her "Just Say
16 No" drug prevention campaign; she invited the wives of other
17 world leaders to attend a White House conference on drug use
18 education in April of 1985; these events lead to the October
19 27, 1986 signing of the "National Crusade for a Drug Free
20 America Act" by her husband; and

21 WHEREAS, In 1988, Nancy Reagan became the first First Lady
22 to address the United Nations General Assembly speaking about

1 drug interdiction and trafficking laws; her most important role
2 as First Lady was as her husband's personal protector after the
3 assassination attempt on March 30, 1981; she began reviewing
4 his personal schedule in an effort to diminish any potential
5 dangers; and

6 WHEREAS, After her time as First Lady, Nancy Reagan
7 established the Nancy Reagan Foundation to support
8 after-school drug prevention programs; she retired with her
9 husband in Bel-Air, California; and

10 WHEREAS, After President Reagan was diagnosed with
11 Alzheimer's Disease in 1994, the couple lent their support to
12 the Ronald and Nancy Reagan Research Institute in Chicago; and

13 WHEREAS, After President Reagan's passing in June of 2004,
14 Nancy Reagan shifted her social efforts to supporting stem cell
15 research in a scientific effort to provide hope for patients of
16 Alzheimer's and other illnesses; and

17 WHEREAS, With continuing attention to her husband's
18 legacy, Nancy Reagan was awarded many prestigious honors, such
19 as the Order of the White Eagle from the government of Poland,
20 an honorary degree from her husband's alma mater, Eureka
21 College, and was present at the 2009 signing of the Ronald
22 Reagan Centennial Commission Act; and

1 WHEREAS, Nancy Reagan is survived by her two children,
2 Patricia and Ron; her stepson, Michael; and three
3 grandchildren; therefore, be it

4 RESOLVED, BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE
5 NINETY-NINTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, that we
6 mourn the passing of Nancy Reagan and extend our sincere
7 condolences to her family, friends, and all who loved and knew
8 her; and be it further

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