

REFERENCE TITLE: death resolution; Laura Knaperek

State of Arizona
House of Representatives
Fifty-second Legislature
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HR 2004

Introduced by

Representatives Norgaard, Allen J, Alston, Barton, Borrelli, Bowers, Boyer, Brophy McGee, Campbell, Cardenas, Carter, Farnsworth E, Gowan, Livingston, Mesnard, Mitchell, Montenegro, Rios, Robson, Saldate, Stevens, Thorpe, Weninger, Senators Allen S, Barto, Biggs, Bradley, Burges, Contreras, Dial, Farnsworth D, Griffin, Hobbs, Lesko, McGuire, Meza, Miranda, Quezada, Sherwood, Yarbrough, Yee: Representatives Ackerley, Andrade, Benally, Bolding, Clark, Cobb, Coleman, Fann, Fernandez, Finchem, Friese, Gabaldón, Hale, Kern, Kopec, Lawrence, Mach, McCune Davis, Mendez, Meyer, Olson, Petersen, Plumlee, Pratt, Rivero, Shope, Townsend, Ugenti-Rita, Velasquez, Senators Donahue, Farley, Pancrazi, Shooter, Worsley

A RESOLUTION

ON THE DEATH OF THE HONORABLE LAURA DAIDONE KNAPERK.

(TEXT OF BILL BEGINS ON NEXT PAGE)

1 The Honorable Laura Daidone Knaperek passed away on March 3, 2016.

2 Born in Chicago, Illinois, Laura spent her childhood in Park Forest,
3 Illinois where she attended St. Mary's grade school and graduated from Crete
4 Monee High School. After marrying the love of her life, Robert, in 1978, the
5 young couple moved to Arizona.

6 Laura distinguished herself as an outstanding public servant throughout
7 her lifetime. A relentless advocate for the most vulnerable in our society,
8 Laura always put the needs of others before her own. She advocated on behalf
9 of children with special needs and their families for many years in her
10 position as the Executive Director for the Arizona Consortium for Children
11 with Chronic Illness. She was first elected to the Arizona House of
12 Representatives in 1994, in which capacity she faithfully served her
13 constituents from 1995 through 2002 and from 2005 through 2006. During her
14 tenure in the legislature, she served as chairperson of the House
15 Appropriations Committee, vice chairperson of the House Education and Health
16 Committees and chairperson of the Children and Families Integrated Delivery
17 Systems. Laura was an early champion of the Right to Try movement and fought
18 passionately for it to become law in Arizona. She organized and led a team
19 to ensure Arizona voters knew that Right to Try legislation would provide
20 terminally ill patients with the right to try potentially lifesaving
21 experimental treatment. When some close to Laura said she should focus on
22 her own cancer battle, she happily responded that helping others find cures
23 was the "right thing to do."

24 Despite the demands of her work, Laura gave selflessly of her time,
25 energy and abilities to various civic and educational organizations. She
26 served on the Kyrene Governing Board and volunteered on numerous boards and
27 committees, including the Center for Habilitation Board of Directors, the
28 Arizona Parents' Association for Children's Education, the Mentally Ill Kids
29 in Distress Advisory Board, the Lexington Institute Education Reform Advisory
30 Board, the Channel 12 Education Team, the Governor's Steering Committee for
31 the Service Delivery Improvement Initiative, the Arizona Initiative for
32 Mental Health, the Great Schools Advisory Board, the President's Committee on
33 Mental Retardation and the Arizona State University West Educational Task
34 Force. Laura also served as cochairperson of Pound Out Cancer, a nonprofit
35 organization that was near and dear to her heart.

36 A natural-born leader, faithful public servant, devoted wife and loving
37 mother, nana, daughter, sister-in-law, aunt, niece, cousin, friend and
38 colleague, Laura will deeply be missed and fondly remembered for her strong
39 values and morals as well as her tremendous faith, selflessness and service.

40 Deeply devoted to her family, Laura will be greatly missed by her
41 husband of 38 years, Robert, her children, Jeshiva, Christopher, Beth, Sarah
42 Jo, Phyllis and Anthony, her brothers, James and John, her 19 grandchildren
43 and her one great-grandchild.

1 Therefore
2 Be it resolved be the House of Representatives of the State of Arizona:
3 That the Members of the House of Representatives express sincere regret
4 at the passing of the Honorable Laura Daidone Knaperek and extend their
5 deepest sympathies and condolences to her family and many friends.