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**Rep. Yang Rohr's Resolution honoring Naperville trailblazer Caroline Martin Mitchell
approved by Illinois House**

NAPERVILLE, IL – The Illinois House of Representatives has officially approved a resolution proposed by Rep. Janet Yang Rohr of Naperville that recognizes Naperville leader Caroline Martin Mitchell for her many contributions to the City and the State of Illinois.

The House approved the resolution (House Resolution 755) on Friday, March 25 in honor of Women's History Month. An official copy of the resolution will soon be sent to Naper Settlement Museum and the City of Naperville.

“Caroline Martin Mitchell, as the last of her descendants, reflected on what her family had built and their contributions to the progress her community had seen during her lifetime and decided to create a living legacy, which has lived on, thrived, and expanded well into the 21st century,” Rep. Yang Rohr's resolution says.

Caroline Martin Mitchell was the grandchild of Scotch immigrants, a business leader, and a city planner before she became Naperville's largest and most influential philanthropist. From its founding in 1831 to Caroline's time a century later, Naperville evolved from a small pioneer outpost to a bustling semi-urban metropolis. The Martin family played a critical role in the city's progress, running one of the largest and most successful construction companies in the region, the Naperville Tile and Brick Works. Unconventional for the time, the businesses-minded Martin women ran the male-dominated brick and tile business from the late nineteenth to early twentieth century.

As the last of her descendants, Caroline reflected on the legacy her family had built and their contributions to the progress her community had seen during her lifetime. She was deeply worried that their legacy would end with her, so she created a living legacy that has lived, thrived, and expanded well into the 21st century. Through a perpetual charitable trust, she appointed the City of Naperville as the trustee to her family's 212-acre estate. She outlined the terms and conditions to ensure that her land would be an ever-evolving legacy to the Martin family by securing her settlement home as a museum, her orchards as a place to gather her community, and by dedicating the remaining acreage to the public good and stipulating that her lands be used to fund her museum when necessary.

Today, Caroline's vision is still being realized, and her 212 acres play a central role in shaping Naperville. Her home and orchards are now Naper Settlement, a 13-acre, nationally accredited outdoor history museum that connects visitors to the past while inspiring them to see their role in

the community's future – just as Caroline did nearly a century ago. Through award-winning exhibits, events, and educational programs, the museum fulfills her vision of a permanent, public institution that celebrates Naperville's proud history and its promising future. Caroline's remaining land has shaped Naperville into a thriving epicenter of growth and progress with a variety of community assets including Naperville Central High School, Rotary Hill, Knoch Park, the Naperville Garden Plots, Von Oven Scout Reservation, Sportsman's Park, Edwards Hospital, Naperville Cemetery, and more.

For more information on Naper Settlement, please visit NaperSettlement.org.

About Naper Settlement

Naper Settlement is a nationally accredited, award-winning outdoor living history museum set on 13 magnificent acres in the heart of Naperville. Located 30 miles from Chicago, the museum is home to thirty-one historical structures dating back as early as the 1830s. Featuring exhibits, special events, educational programming and more, Naper Settlement is where history comes alive and the community comes to connect. For more information, visit www.napersettlement.org or call (630) 420-6010.