

NAPER SETTLEMENT

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

October 17, 2022

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**Rep. Yang Rohr and Illinois House honor business pioness and Settlement founder
Caroline Martin Mitchell**

NAPERVILLE, IL — On October 14, Rep. Janet Yang Rohr presented Naper Settlement Museum with the official copy of an Illinois House resolution that honors Caroline Martin Mitchell. Mitchell was a pioneering female entrepreneur who donated 212 acres of land adjacent to downtown Naperville -- including the land and her homes -- to create the Naper Settlement museum. The Illinois House approved House Resolution 755 on March 25, 2022; and the official certificate was presented to Rena Tamayo-Calabrese, President and CEO of Naper Settlement Museum.

Yang Rohr's resolution says, "through a perpetual charitable trust, Caroline Martin Mitchell appointed the City of Naperville as the trustee of 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 home as a museum and her orchards as a place to gather her community and by dedicating the remaining acreage to the public good, stipulating that her lands be used to fund the museum when necessary."

Mitchell's former estate is home to Naperville Central High School, District 203, Rotary Hill, Knoch Park, the Naperville Garden Plots, the Von Oven Scout Reservation, Sportsman's Park, portions of Edwards Hospital, Linden Oaks, and the Naperville Cemetery.

"The museum and the Naperville Heritage Society thank Rep. Yang Rohr for giving Caroline Martin Mitchell the recognition she deserves," Tamayo-Calabrese said. "This honor is a long time coming because she is Naperville's largest philanthropist -- a business leader in a male dominated world when women did not have the right to vote or any equal rights in general. Caroline Martin Mitchell built an empire and wanted to leave these public lands to benefit the schoolchildren and the people of Illinois. She left a legacy of education, preservation; culture and economic development."

Yang Rohr, D-Naperville, said Mitchell managed operations for the Naperville Tile and Brick Works, which was one of the most successful construction companies in the region.

"Caroline Martin Mitchell led the male-dominated business at a time when it was considered unconventional for a woman to do so," the resolution says.

PHOTOS:

<https://cityofnaperville.sharepoint.com/:f:/s/NSPublicRelationsExternal/Eil97J29sUVK1GjeYdO9GmUBMIxDHRKNqYRoYT-3GjZ6qQ?e=LNwJyb>

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.