



SR1702

LRB100 21851 ALS 39627 r

1

SENATE RESOLUTION

2 WHEREAS, The members of the Illinois Senate wish to
3 recognize the life of Nomzamo Winifred Zanyiwe "Winnie"
4 Madikizela-Mandela, prominent anti-apartheid activist, who
5 passed away on April 2, 2018; and

6 WHEREAS, Winnie Mandela was born in the district of
7 Pondoland in the Eastern Cape of South Africa to Columbus and
8 Gertrude Madikizela on September 26, 1936; one of nine
9 children, she enrolled at the Jan Hofmeyr School of Social Work
10 in Johannesburg in 1953 and was known as a "remarkably
11 effective and dedicated social worker"; she married Nelson
12 Mandela in Pondoland in June 1958; the couple returned to
13 Johannesburg, where she threw herself into political work, and
14 Mandela was imprisoned; and

15 WHEREAS, Winnie Mandela's activism and resistance to
16 apartheid landed her in jail on numerous occasions, eventually
17 causing her banishment to the town of Brandfort and then Orange
18 Free State; and

19 WHEREAS, Winnie Mandela kept the memory of her imprisoned
20 husband alive and helped give the struggle for justice in South
21 Africa one of its most recognizable faces; and

1 WHEREAS, Winnie Mandela remained a venerated figure in the
2 ruling African National Congress; she was a veteran of the
3 anti-apartheid struggle who continued to tell the party
4 "exactly what is wrong and what is right at any time," and she
5 refused to be bowed by the imprisonment of her husband, the
6 perpetual harassment of her family, the detentions, the
7 bannings, and the banishment; and

8 WHEREAS, Winnie Mandela was a defining symbol of the fight
9 against apartheid; although her reputation suffered after a
10 number of incidents, her popularity remained strong; she
11 dedicated most of her adult life to the cause of the African
12 people, and for her dedication was known as the "Mother of the
13 Nation," who inspired generations of activists; and

14 WHEREAS, Winnie Mandela is survived by her daughters;
15 therefore, be it

16 RESOLVED, BY THE SENATE OF THE ONE HUNDREDTH GENERAL
17 ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, that we recognize the life
18 of Nomzamo Winifred Zanyiwe "Winnie" Madikizela-Mandela and
19 offer our sincere condolences to her family, friends, and all
20 who knew and loved her; and be it further

21 RESOLVED, That a suitable copy of this resolution be
22 presented to the family of Winnie Mandela as an expression of

SR1702

-3-

LRB100 21851 ALS 39627 r

1 our deepest sympathy.