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SENATE RESOLUTION

2 WHEREAS, The members of the Illinois Senate are saddened
3 to learn of the death of Newton N. Minow, former chairman of
4 the Federal Communications Commission (FCC), who passed away
5 on May 6, 2023 at the age of 97; and

6 WHEREAS, Newton Minow was born in Milwaukee, Wisconsin on
7 January 17, 1926; he served as a U.S. Army sergeant in the
8 China-Burma-India Theater during World War II; he attended
9 Northwestern University, where he served as editor-in-chief of
10 the Illinois Law Review, known today as the Northwestern
11 University Law Review, and earned his bachelor's degree in
12 1949 and his Juris Doctor in 1950; he married his true love and
13 lifetime collaborator Josephine "Jo" Baskin in 1949, and she
14 preceded him in death in February 2022 after 72 years of
15 marriage; and

16 WHEREAS, After graduating from law school, Newton Minow
17 served as law clerk to the Honorable Fred M. Vinson, Chief
18 Justice of the United States, and then as assistant counsel to
19 Illinois Governor Adlai Stevenson, during which he first
20 suggested televised presidential debates in a memo to the
21 governor in 1955; and

22 WHEREAS, Newton Minow was selected to chair the FCC by

1 President John F. Kennedy in 1961; he drafted legislation that
2 expanded the broadcast spectrum, known as the All-Channel
3 Receiver Act (ACRA) of 1962, and promoted the implementation
4 of communication satellite technology; during his tenure, he
5 additionally cemented presidential debates as a national
6 institution and vigorously supported children's programming
7 and broadcasting for the public interest, leading the way for
8 the creation of the Public Broadcasting Service (PBS); he
9 served in the Kennedy Administration until 1963 and became
10 executive vice president and general counsel of Encyclopedia
11 Britannica, Inc.; and

12 WHEREAS, Newton Minow returned to Chicago in 1965, joining
13 the law firm of Leibman, Williams, Bennett, Baird & Minow,
14 which merged with Sidley & Austin in 1972 to become one of the
15 largest law firms in the nation at the time; he was a partner
16 at Sidley Austin, LLP from 1965 until 1991, serving on the
17 firm's Management Committee and Executive Committee and
18 remaining active as senior counsel until his death; he was a
19 prominent business and civic leader who helped Sidley Austin,
20 LLP and Chicago grow and prosper; and

21 WHEREAS, Newton Minow was committed to supporting
22 education, including through his and Sidley Austin, LLP's
23 adoption of the Kanoon Magnet School in 1984; and

1 WHEREAS, Newton Minow was a man of ideas who authored five
2 books and wrote numerous articles; and

3 WHEREAS, Newton Minow remained active in Democratic
4 politics and with the Commission on Presidential Debates
5 (CPD), including co-chairing the 1976 and 1980 presidential
6 debates; he was involved in every organizing presidential
7 debate since then, serving on the CPD until last year; he also
8 served on commissions appointed by presidents of both
9 political parties; and

10 WHEREAS, Newton Minow maintained a lifelong relationship
11 with Northwestern University, joining its board of trustees in
12 1975, where he served for nearly five decades, and becoming a
13 life trustee in 1987; he received the Northwestern Alumni
14 Medal in 1978; he was also the Walter Annenberg Professor
15 Emeritus of communications and law and was the director of the
16 Annenberg Washington Program in Communications Policy Studies
17 of Northwestern University; he became the namesake of an
18 endowment for a named professorship at Northwestern University
19 Pritzker School of Law in 2014 through funding by a consortium
20 of his personal friends, fellow alumni, and colleagues at
21 Sidley Austin, LLP, which also established the Newton and Jo
22 Minow Debate Series at the Law School, the first of which was
23 held in November 2015; and

1 WHEREAS, Newton Minow served as a director of many
2 companies, including the Aon Corporation, CBS, the Sara Lee
3 Corporation, Manpower, Inc., the Tribune Company, and Foote,
4 Cone & Belding Communications, Inc.; he was a former chairman
5 of the RAND Corporation, trustee emeritus of the Mayo Clinic,
6 a life trustee of the University of Notre Dame, a former
7 trustee and chairman of the Carnegie Corporation, and former
8 chairman of PBS; and

9 WHEREAS, Newton Minow was named one of 21 recipients of
10 the Presidential Medal of Freedom, the nation's highest
11 civilian honor, by President Barack Obama in 2016; he was also
12 the recipient of the American Bar Association Silver Gavel
13 Award, the Chicago Bar Association John Paul Stevens Award,
14 the Federal Communications Bar Association Lifetime
15 Achievement Award, and the American Lawyer Lifetime
16 Achievement Award; he was the recipient of several honorary
17 degrees, including from Brandeis University, the University of
18 Wisconsin, Northwestern University, and the University of
19 Notre Dame; and

20 WHEREAS, Newton Minow was a mentor, friend,
21 philanthropist, leader, and an icon throughout his many years
22 of service in the public and private sectors; he was
23 kind-hearted to all those he encountered and never shied from
24 an opportunity to speak openly and frankly about something in

1 which he believed; he was known for his leadership, brilliant
2 insights, commitment to democracy and justice, warmth, and
3 sense of humor; he will be remembered for the incredible
4 contributions he made to society, the State of Illinois, and
5 the nation; and

6 WHEREAS, Newton Minow was a devoted husband, father, and
7 grandfather; and

8 WHEREAS, Newton Minow is survived by his daughters, Nell
9 (David Apatoff) Minow, Martha (Joe Singer) Minow, and Mary
10 Minow, and his grandchildren, Ben (Michelle Campagna) Apatoff,
11 Rachel (Scott Collette) Apatoff, and Mira Singer; therefore,
12 be it

13 RESOLVED, BY THE SENATE OF THE ONE HUNDRED THIRD GENERAL
14 ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, that we mourn the passing of
15 Newton N. Minow, former chairman of the Federal Communications
16 Commission (FCC) and a champion for the public interest, and
17 extend our sincere condolences to his family, friends, and all
18 who knew and loved him; and be it further

19 RESOLVED, That a suitable copy of this resolution be
20 presented to the family of Newton Minow as an expression of our
21 deepest sympathy.