



SR0581

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SENATE RESOLUTION

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WHEREAS, The members of the Illinois Senate are saddened to learn of the death of Lucille Rose (Kotewa) Msall, who passed away on May 15, 2016, at the age of 87; and

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WHEREAS, Lucille Msall was born to Polish immigrant parents in Chicago's Back of the Yards neighborhood on June 29, 1928; she graduated from Lourdes High School and studied psychology at Loyola University Chicago; she became active in social justice issues on campus and in the city; she met her husband, Emil, during her junior year of college and they married in 1950; 18 years and seven children later, she received her bachelor's degree from Loyola; and

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WHEREAS, Before getting her degree, Lucille Msall was active in tutoring and teaching children with special needs, both out of her home and in the homes of her pupils, helping to teach the skills they were not being taught in public schools; and

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WHEREAS, Lucille Msall was an American disability rights activist and was recognized for co-founding some of the United States' first organizations to advocate on behalf of people with Down Syndrome; in 1968, she was the founding director of the Beacon Therapeutic School for children with autism and

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1 other special needs, which still operates on Longwood Drive on  
2 Chicago's Far South Side; and

3 WHEREAS, Lucille Msall helped organize the National  
4 Association for Down Syndrome and served as its president from  
5 1974 to 1975; she was inspired to do so when her daughter,  
6 Christianne, was born with Down Syndrome in 1969; she helped  
7 form the National Down Syndrome Congress, for which she was the  
8 first recording secretary and was the organization's president  
9 from 1978 to 1979; and

10 WHEREAS, Lucille Msall was invited by President Jimmy  
11 Carter to participate in the White House conference for the  
12 mentally "retarded" in 1980; she became a strong advocate for  
13 replacement of the word "retarded" in favor of "developmentally  
14 challenged" or "special needs"; and

15 WHEREAS, Lucille Msall became a rehabilitation counselor  
16 for the Illinois Department of Rehabilitation Services from  
17 1989 until 2003, where she focused on helping people become  
18 independent and having opportunities for fuller lives,  
19 including employment; and

20 WHEREAS, Lucille Msall's greatest joy of her professional  
21 career was helping any child to learn to read and write or to  
22 master arithmetic; she believed in the ability of everyone, and

1 she believed that everyone deserved an education and could be  
2 educated, and she set out to prove it; and

3 WHEREAS, Lucille Msall and her family moved from the South  
4 Side of Chicago to Oak Park in 1975 to give her daughter,  
5 Christianne, an opportunity to attend a mainstream school;  
6 Christianne went on to attend National Louis University and  
7 completed a certificate program, fulfilling a life's goal for  
8 her mother; and

9 WHEREAS, Lucille Msall expected her children to become  
10 well-rounded, each learning a musical instrument and becoming  
11 involved in outside activities such as 4-H or the Scouts, and  
12 to take on part-time jobs; as they got older, she encouraged  
13 her children to help those in need by getting involved in  
14 projects that would increase their awareness and address some  
15 of the inequities in the community; and

16 WHEREAS, Lucille Msall encouraged expectations of higher  
17 education for her children while they were in high school,  
18 resulting in nine of her living children attending college; and

19 WHEREAS, Lucille Msall was preceded in death by her beloved  
20 husband, Emil B. Msall, and her son, Gerard Peter Msall; and

21 WHEREAS, Lucille Msall is survived by her loving children,

1 Michael (Karla), Anita, Karin (Steve) Fischer, Mary (Scott)  
2 Rogers, Camille, Laurence, Madeleine (Frank Mauceri),  
3 Christianne, and Julianne (Christopher) Pegler; 17  
4 grandchildren; and her sister, Joan (Stanley) Vinkler;  
5 therefore, be it

6 RESOLVED, BY THE SENATE OF THE ONE HUNDREDTH GENERAL  
7 ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, that we mourn the passing of  
8 Lucille Rose Msall, and extend our sincere condolences to her  
9 family, friends, and all who knew and loved her; and be it  
10 further

11 RESOLVED, That a suitable copy of this resolution be  
12 presented to the family of Lucille Msall as an expression of  
13 our deepest sympathy.