



HR0295

LRB102 18449 ECR 26504 r

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HOUSE RESOLUTION

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WHEREAS, The members of the Illinois House of Representatives are saddened to learn of the death of Bernarda "Bernie" Wong of Chicago, who passed away on April 27, 2021; and

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WHEREAS, Bernie Wong was born to Jorge Lo and Virginia Chia de Lo in Hong Kong on October 24, 1943; she came to the United States to study at Briar Cliff College in Sioux City, Iowa; she earned her master's degree in social work at Washington University; and

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WHEREAS, Bernie Wong co-founded and led the Chinese American Service League (CASL); CASL is a common entry point for immigrants seeking assistance with housing, vocational and language training, child care, senior care, and other services; founded more than 40 years, CASL is a currently a multimillion dollar anchor organization that operates out of a building designed by famed architect Jeanne Gang and helps thousands of immigrants each year; she retired from her role at CASL at the end of 2016; and

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WHEREAS, Bernie Wong received numerous awards, including a Champion of Change award from the Obama administration in 2012; she was a visionary leader and a powerhouse champion for

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1 Chinatown, immigrants, the elderly, and the needy; her entire
2 career was dedicated to helping others; and

3 WHEREAS, Bernie Wong helped to make Chicago's Chinatown
4 community what it is today; she assisted countless people over
5 the years and built up the community's social service
6 infrastructure to welcome new immigrants and serve its
7 population; she demonstrated admirable strength and courage,
8 even as an immigrant to this country herself, and was someone
9 who never hesitated to speak up as an advocate and champion for
10 her community; and

11 WHEREAS, Bernie Wong was a devoted parishioner of the
12 Mother Teresa of Calcutta Parish; and

13 WHEREAS, Bernie Wong enjoyed yoga and swam regularly; she
14 treasured her family and friends; and

15 WHEREAS, Bernie Wong was preceded in death by husband,
16 Albert Wong; her parents; her siblings, George, Charles, and
17 Fillis; and brothers-in-law, Bill Joe and Henry Young; and

18 WHEREAS, Bernie Wong is survived by her daughter, Jacinta;
19 her grandchildren, Tiana and Matthew; her sisters-in-law,
20 Rosaline Young, Sue (Peter Wu) Wong, and Margaret and Agnes
21 Lo; her brothers, Albert (Selina), William (Violet), and

1 Thomas (Esme) Lo; her 17 nieces and nephews; and her 17
2 grand-nieces and grand-nephews; therefore, be it

3 RESOLVED, BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE
4 HUNDRED SECOND GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, that
5 we mourn the passing of Bernarda "Bernie" Wong and extend our
6 sincere condolences to her family, friends, and all who knew
7 and loved her; and be it further

8 RESOLVED, That a suitable copy of this resolution be
9 presented to the family of Bernie Wong as an expression of our
10 deepest sympathy.