



SR0580

LRB102 20961 ECR 29857 r

1 SENATE RESOLUTION

2 WHEREAS, The members of the Illinois Senate are saddened  
3 to learn of the death of Virginia "Ginie" Cassin, who passed  
4 away on October 16, 2020 at the age of 96; and

5 WHEREAS, Ginie Cassin was born on April 13, 1924 in  
6 Beloit, Wisconsin; and

7 WHEREAS, Ginie Cassin's family moved to Oak Park when she  
8 was three years old; she graduated from Oak Park and River  
9 Forest High School in 1942; and

10 WHEREAS, Early in life, Ginie Cassin discovered a passion  
11 for civic engagement, including protest; in the 1960s, her  
12 fair housing policy activism was instrumental to the May 6,  
13 1968 passage and implementation of Oak Park's landmark fair  
14 housing ordinance; and

15 WHEREAS, Ginie Cassin brought those learned experiences  
16 and accomplishments with her when she was elected as the first  
17 female village clerk of Oak Park in 1973; as a formal elected  
18 official, she played an indispensable role in creating the  
19 village's first liquor ordinance in March of 1973 and another  
20 ordinance that granted a franchise to Cablevision in April  
21 1979; and

1           WHEREAS, Ginie Cassin's tenure as village clerk lasted  
2 until 1993; during those 20 years, she mentored subsequent  
3 village clerks Sandra Sokol, Teresa Powell, and Vicki Scaman,  
4 who is the current Oak Park village president; and

5           WHEREAS, In retirement, Ginie Cassin remained engaged with  
6 Oak Park politics; she regularly invited local female leaders  
7 to her home where they discussed current events over  
8 breakfast; she maintained memberships in numerous  
9 organizations, such as the League of Women Voters and the  
10 Rotary Club of Oak Park-River Forest; and

11           WHEREAS, Ginie Cassin's post-retirement years included a  
12 time as board chair for the Ernest Hemingway Foundation;  
13 through this, she cemented the author's legacy by establishing  
14 an Oak Park museum that bore his name; she even curated  
15 exhibition items for the Hemingway home museum; and

16           WHEREAS, On July 9, 2018, the Oak Park Village Board  
17 approved a resolution to honor Ginie Cassin and her  
18 contributions to the community; during the ceremony, Illinois  
19 State Senator Don Harmon, now the Illinois Senate President,  
20 also presented her with a proclamation stating that the  
21 Illinois General Assembly had recognized the week as "Virginia  
22 Cassin Week" in Oak Park; and

1           WHEREAS, In her personal and professional lives, Ginie  
2           Cassin lived by her motto "I can do that" and was known for her  
3           friendly nature, bright smile, and ceaseless energy; and

4           WHEREAS, Ginie Cassin was preceded in death by her husband  
5           and high school sweetheart, Bill Cassin; and

6           WHEREAS, At the time of her death, Ginie Cassin was  
7           survived by her children, Michael (Barbara) Cassin, Patricia  
8           Cassin, Sharon Cassin Frame, Sheila (Rick) McLaughlin, Timothy  
9           (Marcia) Cassin, Sean Cassin, Brian (Donna) Cassin, and Kieran  
10          (Jeri) Cassin; her 18 grandchildren; and her 26  
11          great-grandchildren; therefore, be it

12          RESOLVED, BY THE SENATE OF THE ONE HUNDRED SECOND GENERAL  
13          ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, that we mourn the passing of  
14          Virginia "Ginie" Cassin, and extend our sincere condolences to  
15          her family, friends, and all who knew and loved her; and be it  
16          further

17          RESOLVED, That a suitable copy of this resolution be  
18          presented to the family of Virginia Cassin as an expression of  
19          our deepest sympathy.