



SR0868

LRB102 26431 LAW 36765 r

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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 Josephine "Jo" Baskin Minow of Chicago, who passed away at the age of 95; and

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WHEREAS, Josephine Baskin Minow earned her Bachelor of Science from Northwestern University in 1948; and

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WHEREAS, Josephine Baskin Minow was a prominent organizer and advocate; while raising her three children, she also fought to improve the lives of others; after teaching kindergarten and 5th grade at Francis W. Parker School in the late 1940s, she later became president of the Juvenile Protective Association originally founded by Jane Addams; her work with children led her to be part of the Citizens Committee of the Juvenile Court, and she became a prominent member of the Jane Addams Juvenile Court Foundation; and

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WHEREAS, While her husband worked in government in Washington, D.C., Josephine Baskin Minow helped create the Hospitality and Information Service (T.H.I.S.), operating out of the U.S. Department of State, which welcomes diplomats and their families to D.C. and helps them navigate stays in the capital; and

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1           WHEREAS, Josephine Baskin Minow funneled her advocacy for  
2 children and passion for writing into writing children's  
3 books, and she authored three; she wrote Marty the  
4 Broken-Hearted Artichoke, which was published in 1992,  
5 distributed free to nonprofits across the country, and chosen  
6 by then-First Lady Hillary Rodham Clinton to be read at the  
7 inaugural Reach Out and Read project at the University of  
8 Chicago Friends Children's Clinic; and

9           WHEREAS, Josephine Baskin Minow served on the boards of  
10 many of Chicago's most significant civic organizations,  
11 including the Chicago History Museum, the Ravinia Music  
12 Festival, Chicago's Center on Halsted, and Know Your Chicago;  
13 she was a founding member of the Northwestern University  
14 Women's Board in 1978 and a member of the women's boards of the  
15 University of Chicago and the Field Museum; she was a  
16 governing member of the Chicago Symphony Orchestra; she served  
17 both as director and executive committee member of the Chicago  
18 Council on Global Affairs; she became a member of the Abraham  
19 Lincoln Presidential Library and Museum Board in Springfield  
20 at the age of 80; and

21           WHEREAS, Josephine Baskin Minow was a staunch believer in  
22 equal rights and advocacy; during college, she was a member of  
23 the Quibblers, a group advocating against the exclusion of  
24 members of racial minority groups from university housing; in

1 the mid-1970s, she joined a group of women pushing department  
2 stores to end racial discrimination, meeting with Marshall  
3 Field's to advocate for Black sales associates to be allowed  
4 on the floor; and

5 WHEREAS, Josephine Baskin Minow played the role of  
6 assistant to Henry Fonda's character Robert Leffingwell in the  
7 1962 dramatic movie Advise and Consent; and

8 WHEREAS, Josephine Baskin Minow received a number of  
9 accolades over the course of her life; she was given an award  
10 from the Ravinia Music Festival for her work as a trustee in  
11 the 1980s; she received the honor of having the Jo Baskin Minow  
12 Balcony Gallery at the Chicago History Museum dedicated in her  
13 honor in 2015; she was honored with the Caroline Margaret  
14 McIlvaine Making History Award for Distinction in Creative  
15 Cultural Leadership from the Chicago History Museum in 2018;  
16 and

17 WHEREAS, Josephine Baskin Minow had a lifetime love affair  
18 with Chicago and its history; she meticulously chronicled her  
19 family's life in scrapbooks, totaling 70 volumes that she  
20 donated to the Chicago History Museum; she will be especially  
21 remembered for dedication and service to the City of Chicago;  
22 and

1           WHEREAS, Josephine Baskin Minow is survived by her husband  
2 of 72 years, Newton N. Minow; her daughters, Nell, Martha, and  
3 Mary; her sons-in-law, David Apatoff and Joseph Singer; and  
4 her grandchildren, Ben Apatoff, Rachel (Scott Collette)  
5 Apatoff, and Mira Singer; therefore, be it

6           RESOLVED, BY THE SENATE OF THE ONE HUNDRED SECOND GENERAL  
7 ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, that we mourn the passing of  
8 Josephine "Jo" Baskin Minow and extend our sincere condolences  
9 to her family, friends, and all who knew and loved her; and be  
10 it further

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