



SR0984

LRB102 27181 LAW 38741 r

1

SENATE RESOLUTION

2 WHEREAS, The members of the Illinois Senate are saddened
3 to learn of the death of Tema "Temcia" (Posalska) Bauer of
4 Morton Grove, who passed away on March 23, 2022 at the age of
5 105; and

6 WHEREAS, Tema Bauer was born to Hendel and Chil Posalska
7 in Lodz, Poland on May 5, 1916; she was the youngest of nine
8 children; her siblings were Shmiel, Frania, Gutcha, Yosef,
9 Barrish, Herschel, Mania, and Sarah; and

10 WHEREAS, When the Nazis invaded Poland in 1939, Tema
11 Bauer's siblings decided to move their parents to a smaller
12 town, thinking it might be safer; she intended to close the
13 family home and follow them, but she was ordered into the
14 Jewish ghetto in Lodz while her relatives were sent to
15 Chelмно, which was the first stationary facility where poison
16 gas was used to mass murder Jews; she never again saw the 38
17 members of her family, which included her parents, her
18 siblings, their husbands and wives, and her 21 nieces and
19 nephews; and

20 WHEREAS, Tema Bauer worked in a kitchen and then at a shoe
21 factory in the Lodz Ghetto; she underwent a three-day train
22 journey in 1943, where she stood in a packed car with no room

1 to sit, no water, no food, and no bathroom facilities, before
2 arriving at the slave labor camp Skarzysko-Kamienna; she was
3 then sent to a factory in Leipzig, Germany, where she was
4 forced to make munitions alongside other slave laborers; she
5 was seriously injured by bombing and survived thanks to two
6 Jewish doctors, who amputated her right arm above her elbow
7 without anesthesia or antibiotics, causing her to lose her
8 dominant hand in the process; two months after she lost her
9 arm, she was ordered on a six-day death march with other women
10 laborers toward the Elbe River in 1945; she was liberated
11 after her Nazi captors fled due to Allied forces drawing near;
12 and

13 WHEREAS, Tema Bauer returned to Lodz, seeking news of her
14 family; while there, she reunited with Morris "Moishe" Bauer,
15 a fellow Holocaust survivor who had survived at least seven
16 camps due in part to his skills as a cobbler and who, like her,
17 was also the sole survivor of his family; they married in 1945;
18 they then went to a displaced-persons camp in Germany, where
19 she was determined to prove that she could do with one hand
20 what any other wife could do with two and received an award one
21 month for having the cleanest home in the camp; they had their
22 first son, Jerry, while at the camp in 1948; and

23 WHEREAS, Alongside her young family, Tema Bauer emigrated
24 to the United States through Ellis Island, settling in Chicago

1 in 1949; they lived on Grenshaw Street on the West Side for
2 approximately eight months before settling in East Rogers
3 Park; her husband borrowed \$1,758.38 from the Jewish Family
4 and Community Service organization to open a shoe-repair shop
5 on Devon Avenue, which they paid back in 1956; they had their
6 second son, Michael, in 1952; and

7 WHEREAS, Tema Bauer and her husband Morris remained an
8 inseparable team, devoted to one another and their growing
9 family; after her husband was diagnosed with Alzheimer's
10 disease, she cared for him for the last eight years of his life
11 until his death in 1995; and

12 WHEREAS, Tema Bauer was affectionately known as "Mama
13 Tema" to her grandchildren and great-grandchildren, who she
14 would kvell over, attending every birthday party, bar and bat
15 mitzvah, graduation, recital, sports event, and wedding; she
16 was a skilled cook known for her kreplach, borscht, chicken
17 matzoh ball soup, mandel bread, cinnamon-scented kugel and
18 apple slices, and gefilte fish; and

19 WHEREAS, Tema Bauer was one of the oldest Holocaust
20 survivors in Illinois at the time of her passing, and she will
21 be remembered for her wisdom, courage, and inner strength, the
22 remarkable qualities of her extraordinary life; her story will
23 live on through the oral history interview she provided on

1 November 8, 1992 to the Holocaust Memorial Foundation of
2 Illinois, known today as the Illinois Holocaust Museum and
3 Education Center, which is now part of the U.S. Holocaust
4 Memorial Museum in Washington, D.C.; and

5 WHEREAS, Tema Bauer was the beloved wife of the late
6 Morris "Moishe" Bauer; the loving mother of Dr. Jerry
7 (Adrienne) Bauer and the late Michael Bauer (Roger Simon); the
8 adoring grandmother of Michelle (Stuart) Primack, Dr. Hillary
9 Bauer-Cohen (Jeffrey Cohen), and Aaron (Lauren) Bauer; and the
10 doting great-grandmother of Maya Primack, Mason Primack, Sasha
11 Cohen, Jonah Cohen, Joshua Cohen, Olivia Bauer, and Miles
12 Bauer; therefore, be it

13 RESOLVED, BY THE SENATE OF THE ONE HUNDRED SECOND GENERAL
14 ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, that we mourn the passing of
15 Tema "Temcia" (Posalska) Bauer and extend our sincere
16 condolences to her family, friends, and all who knew and loved
17 her; and be it further

18 RESOLVED, That a suitable copy of this resolution be
19 presented to the family of Tema Bauer as an expression of our
20 deepest sympathy.