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HOUSE RESOLUTION

2 WHEREAS, The members of the Illinois House of
3 Representatives are saddened to learn of the death of Newton
4 N. Minow, former chairman of the Federal Communications
5 Commission (FCC), who passed away on May 6, 2023; and

6 WHEREAS, Newton Minow was born in Milwaukee, Wisconsin on
7 January 17, 1926; he served as a U.S. Army sergeant in the
8 China-Burma-India Theater during World War II; he attended
9 Northwestern University, where he served as editor-in-chief of
10 the Illinois Law Review, known today as the Northwestern
11 University Law Review, and earned his bachelor's degree in
12 1949 and his Juris Doctor in 1950; he married Josephine "Jo"
13 Baskin in 1949, and she preceded him in death in February 2022;
14 and

15 WHEREAS, After graduating from law school, Newton Minow
16 served as law clerk to the Honorable Fred M. Vinson, Chief
17 Justice of the United States, and then as assistant counsel to
18 Illinois Governor Adlai Stevenson, during which he first
19 suggested televised presidential debates in a memo to the
20 governor in 1955; and

21 WHEREAS, Newton Minow was appointed as chairman of the FCC
22 by President John F. Kennedy in the early 1960s; he drafted

1 legislation that expanded the broadcast spectrum, known as the
2 All-Channel Receiver Act (ACRA) of 1962, and promoted the
3 implementation of communication satellite technology; during
4 his tenure, he additionally cemented presidential debates as a
5 national institution and vigorously supported children's
6 programming, leading the way for the creation of the Public
7 Broadcasting Service (PBS); he served in the Kennedy
8 Administration until 1963 and became executive vice president
9 and general counsel of Encyclopedia Britannica, Inc.; and

10 WHEREAS, Newton Minow returned to Chicago in 1965, joining
11 the law firm of Leibman, Williams, Bennett, Baird & Minow,
12 which merged with Sidley & Austin in 1972 before merging with
13 Brown & Wood in 2001; he was a partner at Sidley Austin, LLP
14 from 1965 until 1991, at which time he became senior counsel;
15 he additionally authored five books and wrote numerous
16 articles; and

17 WHEREAS, Newton Minow remained active in Democratic
18 politics and with the Commission on Presidential Debates
19 (CPD), including co-chairing the 1976 and 1980 presidential
20 debates; he was involved in every organizing presidential
21 debate since then, serving on the CPD until last year; he also
22 served on commissions appointed by presidents of both
23 political parties; and

1 WHEREAS, Newton Minow maintained a lifelong relationship
2 with Northwestern University, joining its board of trustees in
3 1975, where he served for nearly five decades, and becoming a
4 life trustee in 1987; he received the Northwestern Alumni
5 Medal in 1978; he was also the Walter Annenberg Professor
6 Emeritus of communications and law and was the director of the
7 Annenberg Washington Program in Communications Policy Studies
8 of Northwestern University; he became the namesake of an
9 endowment for a named professorship at Northwestern University
10 Pritzker School of Law in 2014 through funding by a consortium
11 of his personal friends, fellow alumni, and colleagues at
12 Sidley Austin, which also established the Newton and Jo Minow
13 Debate Series at the Law School, the first of which was held in
14 November 2015; and

15 WHEREAS, Newton Minow served as a director of many
16 companies, including the Aon Corporation, CBS, the Sara Lee
17 Corporation, Manpower, Inc., the Tribune Company, and Foote,
18 Cone & Belding Communications, Inc.; he was a former chairman
19 of the RAND Corporation, trustee emeritus of the Mayo Clinic,
20 a life trustee of the University of Notre Dame, a former
21 trustee and chairman of the Carnegie Corporation, and former
22 chairman of PBS; and

23 WHEREAS, Newton Minow was named one of 21 recipients of
24 the Presidential Medal of Freedom, the nation's highest

1 civilian honor, by President Barack Obama in 2016; he was also
2 the recipient of the American Bar Association Silver Gavel
3 Award, the Chicago Bar Association John Paul Stevens Award,
4 the Federal Communications Bar Association Lifetime
5 Achievement Award, and the American Lawyer Lifetime
6 Achievement Award; he was the recipient of several honorary
7 degrees, including from Brandeis University, the University of
8 Wisconsin, Northwestern University, and the University of
9 Notre Dame; and

10 WHEREAS, Newton Minow was a mentor, friend,
11 philanthropist, leader, and an icon throughout his many years
12 of service in the public and private sectors; he was
13 kind-hearted to all those he encountered and never shied from
14 an opportunity to speak openly and frankly about something in
15 which he believed; he was known for his leadership, brilliant
16 insights, warmth, and sense of humor; he will be remembered
17 for the incredible contributions he made to society and the
18 nation; and

19 WHEREAS, Newton Minow is survived by his children, Martha,
20 Nell, and Mary Minow, and three grandchildren; therefore, be
21 it

22 RESOLVED, BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE
23 HUNDRED THIRD GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, that

1 we mourn the passing of Newton N. Minow, former chairman of the
2 Federal Communications Commission (FCC), and extend our
3 sincere condolences to his family, friends, and all who knew
4 and loved him; and be it further

5 RESOLVED, That a suitable copy of this resolution be
6 presented to the family of Newton Minow as an expression of our
7 deepest sympathy.