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LRB103 40847 LAW 73781 r

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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 Rickye
4 Denise "Rikki" Jones, who passed away on April 21, 2024; and

5 WHEREAS, Rikki Jones was born to Mercedes Jones and Willis
6 Jones in Chicago on August 12, 1950; she was raised by her
7 grandparents, Marie and Wilbur Williams, and her aunt,
8 Patricia "Pat" Williams; she attended St. Martin Catholic
9 School and graduated from St. Thomas the Apostle High School
10 in Hyde Park; she pursued higher education at Illinois
11 Benedictine College and spent a semester at sea through
12 Chapman College, studying and traveling in Asia; she later
13 obtained her master's degree from the University of Phoenix;
14 and

15 WHEREAS, Rikki Jones was a beloved educator, a passionate
16 community activist, and a tireless champion of political
17 empowerment; her teaching career spanned many years at the
18 City Colleges of Chicago and the Chicago Public School system,
19 where her deep passion and love for young children were
20 evident in her unwavering availability and willingness to help
21 whenever and however she could, remaining dedicated to
22 uplifting others through education and advocacy; and

1 WHEREAS, Throughout her life, Rikki Jones was at the
2 forefront of the fight for rights and opportunities, beginning
3 at the age of 17 when she became involved with Operation
4 Breadbasket, organized by the Southern Christian Leadership
5 Conference (SCLC) and later transformed into Operation PUSH,
6 and the Black Panther Party Breakfast Program; and

7 WHEREAS, Rikki Jones' passion for civic engagement led to
8 34 years of leadership with the Cook County Democratic Women,
9 an organization committed to advancing women's rights and
10 political representation; she was responsible for launching
11 the careers of various political leaders, as well as
12 advocating for numerous campaigns, including Mayor Harold
13 Washington, U.S. Senator Carol Mosley Braun, President Barack
14 Obama, Associate Justice Ketanji Brown Jackson of the U.S.
15 Supreme Court, Speaker Emanuel "Chris" Welch of the Illinois
16 House of Representatives, and many more; she attended the 1996
17 Democratic National Convention after serving as a volunteer
18 worker on President Bill Clinton's campaign and was chosen as
19 a delegate for the 2024 Democratic National Convention in
20 support for President Joe Biden and Vice President Kamala
21 Harris; and

22 WHEREAS, Rikki Jones was a regular guest speaker on such
23 WVON shows as the Cliff Kelly Show and the Perri Small Show,
24 where she advocated for her community and provided helpful

1 information; and

2 WHEREAS, Rikki Jones was the recipient of several
3 accolades during her life, including the Dunbar Vocational
4 Career Academy Service Award; she was further honored by Cook
5 County Clerk Dorothy Brown and U.S. Senator Dick Durbin as
6 well as at the Power Rising Conference; and

7 WHEREAS, Rikki Jones committed to her faith at an early
8 age, being baptized at Holy Immanuel Episcopal Church as an
9 infant; she served as an active member in Sunday school and the
10 children's choir, participating in all church pageants; as an
11 adult, she was baptized at Maryland Avenue Missionary Baptist
12 Church, where she served as youth director for many years; she
13 was a dedicated member of Pleasant Gift Missionary Baptist
14 Church, serving on the boards of trustees and nursing, working
15 in the youth group, serving as a Sunday school teacher, and
16 leading a special project for the outreach ministry; and

17 WHEREAS, Rikki Jones deeply loved her family and was
18 affectionately known as "Aunt Rikki" to all of her younger
19 family members; she shared a special bond with her Aunt Pat and
20 adored her cousins, Ann Marie and Joy, who were like sisters;
21 and

22 WHEREAS, Rikki Jones made an indelible mark on her

1 community; she will be remembered for her unwavering
2 commitment to social justice and equality, inspiring
3 generations to come; and

4 WHEREAS, Rikki Jones was preceded in death by her
5 grandparents; her parents; and her brothers, Kenneth (Val)
6 Wilbur and Wayne (Ann) Vincent; and

7 WHEREAS, Rikki Jones is survived by her aunt; her nieces
8 and nephews, Marie, Nicole, Vincent, Kenneth, and Autumn; her
9 cousins; her great-cousins, Jonathan, Jeremy, Olivia, Kathryn,
10 and Alexander; her great-nephews, Rahaman, Rahsul, and
11 Rahfeeq; her great-nieces, Noa and Hannah; her special
12 friends, Reverend Krista Alston and her extended family; and a
13 host of family, friends, students, her church family, and the
14 political community; therefore, be it

15 RESOLVED, BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE
16 HUNDRED THIRD GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, that
17 we mourn the passing of Rickye Denise "Rikki" Jones and extend
18 our sincere condolences to her family, friends, and all who
19 knew and loved her; and be it further

20 RESOLVED, That a suitable copy of this resolution be
21 presented to the family of Rikki Jones as an expression of our
22 deepest sympathy.