

1                   AMENDMENT TO HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 0002

2           AMENDMENT NO. \_\_\_\_\_. Amend House Joint Resolution 0002 by  
3 replacing everything after the title with the following:

4           "WHEREAS, The General Assembly takes pride in  
5 recognizing the accomplishments and contributions of Illinois  
6 officials and citizens; and

7           WHEREAS, The General Assembly, as an august body,  
8 exercises discerning judgement in resolutions to cite the  
9 noted achievements of a select few individuals, especially  
10 when bestowing one of the highest methods of recognition by  
11 the State; and

12           WHEREAS, In recognition of the lasting legacies and many  
13 sacrifices that Justice Michael Bilandic and Justice Benjamin  
14 Miller have made for the citizenry of the State of Illinois,  
15 the General Assembly would like to recognize these  
16 individuals with the rare honor of naming public buildings  
17 after these former State officials; and

18           WHEREAS, Michael Anthony Bilandic was one of the more  
19 influential and highly regarded public figures in Chicago,  
20 serving as Mayor of Chicago from 1976 to 1979 and later as  
21 Chief Justice of the Illinois Supreme Court; he was a man of  
22 commitment and a loyal Chicagoan; most importantly, he was

1 devoted to his family, faithful to his church, and proud of  
2 his Croatian heritage; he died on January 16, 2002, at the  
3 age of 78; he is survived by his wife Heather, son Michael,  
4 brothers Steve and Nick, and sister Eleanor; and

5 WHEREAS, Born on February 13, 1923 to Croatian  
6 immigrants, Justice Bilandic grew up in the Bridgeport  
7 community where he attended St. Jerome Grammar School (class  
8 of '36) and De La Salle High School; after receiving a  
9 Bachelor of Science degree from St. Mary's College, he  
10 attended DePaul University College of Law where he earned a  
11 Juris Doctor degree; during WWII, he courageously served as a  
12 First Lieutenant in the U.S. Marine Corps; and

13 WHEREAS, Justice Bilandic's political career was rich and  
14 diverse, including service in all three branches of  
15 government over four decades; he began his long and  
16 distinguished public service career in 1969 when his  
17 neighbors elected him to represent them as Alderman of the  
18 11th Ward in Chicago; as a member of the City Council,  
19 Alderman Bilandic pushed for the passage of many initiatives  
20 designed to protect the city's environment, including a ban  
21 on harmful lead-based paint and on phosphates in laundry  
22 detergent, and the passage of the Lakefront Protection  
23 Ordinance; considered an expert in government finance, he  
24 rose to serve as Chairman of the city's Finance Committee and  
25 later became floor leader; and

26 WHEREAS, In 1976, Bilandic was selected by his colleagues  
27 to serve as Mayor of Chicago; he was elected to that office  
28 in 1977, and held the post until 1979; as Mayor, he continued  
29 to be an innovator in the area of enhancing the city; he  
30 organized the first ChicagoFest, which was the precursor of  
31 many current festivals, and lent his support to the Chicago  
32 Marathon, which has become one of the premier running events  
33 in the world; he arranged the city-insured, low-interest

1 mortgage loans for middle-income families in order to make  
2 the city more appealing to families; his wise and intelligent  
3 concern for the good of Chicago is evident in his  
4 accomplishments; and

5 WHEREAS, Bilandic returned to private law practice in  
6 1979, and was widely respected for his keen intellect and  
7 exceptional insight into the intricacies of corporate law; a  
8 new career was begun with his election to the 1st District  
9 Appellate court and, in 1990, with his election to the  
10 highest judicial office, the Illinois Supreme Court, where he  
11 served as Chief Justice from 1994 through 1996; Justice  
12 Bilandic will always be remembered for his long years of  
13 unselfish public service, characterized by his decency,  
14 intelligence, and integrity; the legacy of Bilandic's  
15 dedication, devotion, and hard work serve as an example to  
16 all; a group of Chicago aldermen led the effort to rename the  
17 State of Illinois Building after him; and

18 WHEREAS, While much of Michael Bilandic's life was often  
19 consumed by his outstanding legal and political career, he  
20 possessed a great passion for his family and heritage; both  
21 of his parents came to the United States from Croatia in the  
22 early 1900s; his mother, "Minnie" (Lebedina), came from the  
23 village of Bobovisce on the island of Brac, Croatia; his  
24 father, Mate Bilandzic (later changed to Bilandic),  
25 immigrated from Dicmo, a village near Sinj, Croatia; he  
26 shared his family roots with his wife and son, and often  
27 visited Croatia; and

28 WHEREAS, Following a peaceful and dignified family  
29 funeral service, Justice Bilandic was quietly and humbly  
30 buried beside his parents at St. Mary Cemetery; his wife  
31 described him as "a devoted family man (who) also loved  
32 Chicago and its people, was proud of his Croatian heritage,  
33 and grateful for the opportunities which this country

1 provided to his family"; he was a gentle soul, a man of  
2 integrity, honor, and dignity, who brought gentleness and  
3 respect into the fields of government, law, politics, and all  
4 aspects of his life; and

5 WHEREAS, Justice Michael A. Bilandic made vital  
6 contributions of service and merit to the State of Illinois  
7 and to the State's citizens and deserves to have his  
8 achievements noted and remembered by current and future  
9 generations, as his memory is now honored by the General  
10 Assembly; and

11 WHEREAS, Justice Benjamin K. Miller began serving as  
12 Circuit Court Judge in Illinois for the 7th Judicial Circuit  
13 in 1976, was the Presiding Judge in that Circuit's criminal  
14 felony division, and was in 1981 the Chief Judge of the 7th  
15 Judicial Circuit; and he was elected in 1982 to the Fourth  
16 District Appellate Court and elected to the Illinois Supreme  
17 Court in 1984, and was Chief Justice of the Illinois Supreme  
18 Court from 1991 to 1994; and

19 WHEREAS, Justice Miller served the judicial branch  
20 wisely at all 3 levels of the Illinois court system, wrote  
21 numerous landmark judicial opinions, made noble contributions  
22 to jurisprudence, and served his profession, the citizens,  
23 and the State of Illinois with integrity and distinction; and

24 WHEREAS, These individuals have made vital contributions  
25 of service and merit to the State of Illinois and to the  
26 State's citizens and deserve to have their achievements noted  
27 and remembered by current and future generations, as they are  
28 honored by the General Assembly today; therefore, be it

29 RESOLVED, BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE  
30 NINETY-THIRD GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, THE  
31 SENATE CONCURRING HEREIN, that we rename the State of  
32 Illinois Building at 160 North La Salle Street in Chicago in

1 honor of Justice Michael Bilandic; and in implementing this  
2 honor, we designate that State building as the Justice  
3 Michael Bilandic State of Illinois Building; and be it  
4 further

5 RESOLVED, That we rename the 4th District Appellate  
6 Court Building at 201 West Monroe Street in Springfield in  
7 honor of Justice Benjamin Miller; and in implementing this  
8 honor, we designate that court building as the Justice  
9 Benjamin Miller 4th District Appellate Court Building; and be  
10 it further

11 RESOLVED, That suitable copies of this preamble and  
12 resolution be presented to Justice Benjamin Miller and to the  
13 family of Justice Michael Bilandic; and be it further

14 RESOLVED, That suitable copies of this preamble and  
15 resolution be presented to the Director of Central Management  
16 Services, the Chief Justice of the Illinois Supreme Court,  
17 and other operating authorities for the cited buildings."