



SR0613

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SENATE RESOLUTION

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WHEREAS, The members of the Illinois Senate are deeply
3 sorry to learn of the death of Jay A. Miller of Evanston; and

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WHEREAS, Jay Miller served as the Executive Director of the
5 American Civil Liberties Union (ACLU) of Illinois for more than
6 25 years; and

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WHEREAS, Jay Miller worked as a journalist in Cleveland and
8 a union organizer for the Amalgamated Clothing Workers of
9 America before moving to Chicago to join the Midwest office of
10 the American Friends Service Committee (AFSC); and

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WHEREAS, Jay Miller led a campaign for the AFSC aimed at
12 securing ratification of a Nuclear Test Ban Treaty and helped
13 to organize a rally for the Reverend Doctor Martin Luther King,
14 Jr. at Chicago's Soldier Field; and

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WHEREAS, Jay Miller became the executive director of the
16 ACLU of Illinois in 1965, when the organization had a staff of
17 four and budget of less than \$50,000, and soon led the
18 organization to new and innovative cases, including
19 desegregation of the Waukegan Public Schools, challenges to
20 racial segregation in public housing, and defending the rights
21 of protestors at the 1968 Democratic National Convention in

1 Chicago; and

2 WHEREAS, Jay Miller took a prominent role in challenging
3 the police accounts of the shooting of Black Panther Fred
4 Hampton, leading to the revelation of the true facts of that
5 problem; and

6 WHEREAS, Jay Miller became a prominent voice for civil
7 liberties in the State, traveled to every corner of the State
8 to meet with ACLU members and others, and became a regular
9 voice defending civil liberties in the media across Illinois,
10 often invoking his own colorful rhetoric; and

11 WHEREAS, Jay Miller's vision and managerial skills,
12 combined with his fierce passion for civil liberties, built the
13 modern ACLU of Illinois, providing resources for the
14 organization to take on early cases protecting the rights of
15 persons with AIDS and HIV, ensuring fundamental rights for
16 lesbians and gay men, worked to reform a decrepit and dangerous
17 child welfare system and the Illinois Department of Mental
18 Health, and challenged racial profiling and other racial
19 discrimination across the State of Illinois; and

20 WHEREAS, Jay Miller is survived by his wife, Lou Kaplan;
21 and his children: Josh Miller, Adam Miller, and Rebecca Miller;
22 therefore, be it

1 RESOLVED, BY THE SENATE OF THE NINETY-SEVENTH GENERAL
2 ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, that we mourn, along with
3 his family and friends, the passing of Jay Miller; and be it
4 further

5 RESOLVED, That a suitable copy of this resolution be
6 presented to the family of Jay Miller as a symbol of our
7 sincere sympathy.