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LRB103 35169 LAW 65140 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
4 activist, community organizer, and publicist Marilyn Katz, who
5 passed away on October 26, 2023; and

6 WHEREAS, Marilyn Katz was born in Chicago; she was raised
7 in Lakeview and graduated from Lake View High School; she
8 attended both Tulane University and Northwestern University;
9 she was a longtime resident of Lincoln Park; and

10 WHEREAS, Marilyn Katz left college in 1966 to devote
11 herself to activism, marching with Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.
12 in Marquette Park to protest housing segregation; that same
13 year, she joined the Students for a Democratic Society (SDS)
14 to primarily object to the Vietnam War while also bringing
15 attention to civil rights issues; she quickly became a local
16 leader of the organization, and she served as security chief
17 of SDS's National Mobilization Committee to End the War in
18 Vietnam at the 1968 Democratic National Convention in Chicago;
19 and

20 WHEREAS, Marilyn Katz moved to Los Angeles, California in
21 1970, where her work included making educational films aimed
22 at helping surgical patients; she returned to Chicago in 1978,

1 working as a director and producer for Goldsholl Design & Film
2 Associates from 1979 until late 1982; she then became a press
3 aide to Harold Washington for his first mayoral campaign in
4 1983, becoming an integral part of Democratic politics in
5 Chicago in the process; and

6 WHEREAS, Marilyn Katz founded the public relations firm MK
7 Communications in April 1984, serving as a strategist and
8 consultant to clients in various fields, including government,
9 housing, and nonprofits; she assisted in numerous political
10 campaigns, including Harold Washington's second mayoral
11 campaign in 1987 and Barack Obama's successful presidential
12 runs; over the years, she handled a diverse client list that
13 included the Morton Arboretum, the Chicago Park District, the
14 Chicago Children's Museum, Park National Bank, the National
15 Railway Equipment Co., and the City of Chicago; through her
16 work, she became well-known as a behind-the-scenes influence
17 in Chicago politics for decades, and she was noted for her
18 extraordinary ability to galvanize and organize people with,
19 at times, opposing interests; and

20 WHEREAS, Marilyn Katz maintained her antiwar stance
21 throughout her life, organizing efforts against the Iraq War
22 in the early 2000s; she belonged to several organizations and
23 served on the board of J Street, a pro-Israel advocacy group,
24 for many years and co-chaired Chicago Women Take Action, which

1 was established after President Donald Trump's election in
2 2016; she also served as a consultant for the musicians' union
3 to settle a strike at the Chicago Symphony Orchestra in 2019;
4 and

5 WHEREAS, Marilyn Katz was passionate, intelligent,
6 persuasive, humorous, and moral; she loved cooking, especially
7 when making Sunday dinners for family and close friends; and

8 WHEREAS, Marilyn Katz was an active and engaged citizen
9 who was the ultimate disrupter for the best causes; she will be
10 remembered for fighting for what she believed in and standing
11 by her convictions in an effort to make things better for the
12 City of Chicago, the State of Illinois, and the nation; and

13 WHEREAS, Marilyn Katz is survived by her husband, Scott
14 Chambers, and her children, Grady Chambers and Halley
15 Chambers; therefore, be it

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

21 RESOLVED, That a suitable copy of this resolution be

1 presented to the family of Marilyn Katz as an expression of our
2 deepest sympathy.