



HR0715

LRB097 17700 KXB 63023 r

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HOUSE RESOLUTION

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

5           WHEREAS, Jay Miller served as the Executive Director of the  
6 American Civil Liberties Union (ACLU) of Illinois for more than  
7 25 years; and

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

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

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

1 of protestors at the 1968 Democratic National Convention in  
2 Chicago; and

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

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

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

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

1 therefore, be it

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

6 RESOLVED, That a suitable copy of this resolution be  
7 presented to the family of Jay Miller and to the American Civil  
8 Liberties Union of Illinois as a symbol of our sincere  
9 sympathy.