



HR0934

LRB099 18217 MST 42586 r

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HOUSE RESOLUTION

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WHEREAS, The members of the Illinois House of Representatives are saddened to learn of the death of Vanessa Ann Rich of Chicago, who passed away on December 27, 2015 at the age of 64; and

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WHEREAS, Vanessa Rich served as the City of Chicago Deputy Commissioner for the Department of Family and Support Services; and

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WHEREAS, Vanessa Rich had a long and dedicated career with the National Head Start Association (NHSA); she joined Head Start in 1965 as a youth volunteer in the first summer program offered in Rock Island District 41; she taught in the Rock Island Head Start program; in 1972, she became the teacher and director for Galesburg's Head Start Operation for Pre-School Education (HOPE), a one-classroom, 30-student program; in 1974, she joined Head Start Directors from around the country at the first National Head Start directors meeting in Chicago, where she became a member of several organizational committees, including Conference and By-laws; she later became President of the Illinois Directors Association and represented Illinois on the Directors Board; in the early 1980s, she moved to Chicago after her one-room program had developed into a multi-county program, serving over 200 families; and

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1 WHEREAS, While in Chicago, Vanessa Rich joined the Training
2 and Technical Assistance provider for Region V CSR,
3 Incorporated; she served as Lead Consultant and Director for 4
4 years; in the late 1980s, she took a position with City
5 Colleges of Chicago as Dean of Adult Learning and continued to
6 serve Head Start at State, regional, and national levels; she
7 continued to work and serve on numerous Association committees
8 and boards; she served as President of Center Circle, Inc. and
9 provided training, technical assistance, and support to
10 programs in all 50 states and territories; and

11 WHEREAS, Throughout her career, Vanessa Rich worked in many
12 positions with many organizations and received numerous
13 accolades, including 1979 International Year of the Child -
14 Carter Administration; Department of Health Education and
15 Welfare Policy Caucus (1977) Jim Robinson; NHSA Head Start
16 Performance Standard Committee (1995); International
17 Association of Business Communicators Golden Quill Award for
18 Multilingual Communication - Head Start Increasing Latino
19 Enrollment (2005 & 2006); Dr. Pedro Albizu Campos Community
20 Involvement Award (2011); served as a Head Start reviewer;
21 Chicago Association for Education of Young Children - Head
22 Start representative; Illinois Association for Education of
23 Young Children - Head Start representative; Chicago Coalition
24 of Site Administered Child Care Program for outstanding

1 commitment to improving the quality of child care in Chicago;
2 Children's Defense Fund Advisory Board; National Head Start
3 Academy Instructor; Director Illinois Downstate Coordinated
4 Campaign for Clinton/Braun; County Liaison for Obama for Senate
5 Committee; Legislative Committee NHSA Parent Affiliate
6 Organizing Committee (1974); Region V Outstanding Head Start
7 Director; City College Woman of the Year; Illinois Head Start
8 Association Martin Luther King Jr. Humanitarian Award;
9 Illinois Head Start Association Silver Anniversary Service
10 Award; board member for Illinois Head Start Association,
11 Friends Association, and Directors Association; board member
12 Region V Association; past President Illinois Director
13 Association; keynote National Parent Association; Early
14 Learning Council (Governor Appointee); Illinois Child Care
15 Advisory Council (Governor Appointee); Day Care Action Council
16 - Head Start representative; Illinois Health System Agency -
17 Head Start representative; provided testimony for Illinois
18 General Assembly; provided testimony for Knox County Board of
19 Supervisors; member of the President Clinton Crime Commission
20 Summit; NHSA Strategic Planning Committee; NHSA Monitoring
21 Task Force; NHSA Champions of Change; Illinois Race to the Top
22 Ad Hoc Planning Committee; NHSA Government Affairs Committee;
23 NHSA Performance Standards Committee; convened and sponsored
24 the Head Start Policy Project; and

25 WHEREAS, Vanessa Rich was the beloved mother of Seth Justin

1 Rich (Veronica) and Vyctoria Jamie Kranz (Gregory); the loving
2 sister of Richard Hudson (Aloyce), Ronald Hudson (Ree), and
3 Crystal Hudson-Jones (Keith); the proud grandmother of Alecia,
4 Brittney, Maritza, James, Zachary, Seth Xavier, Isaiah, and one
5 great-grandchild, Edwin; the aunt to many nieces and nephews;
6 and friend to all; therefore, be it

7 RESOLVED, BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE
8 NINETY-NINTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, that we
9 mourn the passing of Vanessa Ann Rich, and extend our sincere
10 condolences to her family, friends, and all who knew and loved
11 her; and be it further

12 RESOLVED, That a suitable copy of this resolution be
13 presented to the family of Vanessa Rich as an expression of our
14 deepest sympathy.