



HR0341

LRB104 13605 LAW 26221 r

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HOUSE RESOLUTION

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WHEREAS, The members of the Illinois House of Representatives wish to recognize the Honorable Thomas R. Chiola on his career, his achievements, and his contributions to the State as the first openly gay elected official in Illinois; and

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WHEREAS, Judge Chiola has been a devoted activist and an inspiration to the LGBT community for decades, and his advocacy and trailblazing example have paved the way for those from marginalized communities to seek public office in Illinois; and

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WHEREAS, Judge Chiola was born in Springfield in 1952; he earned a Bachelor of Science from Illinois State University in 1974 and a Juris Doctor from the University of Illinois College of Law in 1977; and

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WHEREAS, Judge Chiola moved from Springfield to Chicago in 1977, where his first position was as a prosecutor for the Illinois Attorney General's Environment Control Division with a concentration on pollution cases; and

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WHEREAS, Judge Chiola was elected to the Illinois Circuit Court of Cook County in 1994, and he retired in 2009; during

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1 his career, he served as chief administrative law judge for
2 the General Council for the Illinois Department of
3 Professional Regulation, where he served for six years while
4 deliberating various high-profile medical cases and
5 malpractice lawsuits; and

6 WHEREAS, Judge Chiola, as an activist, successfully aided
7 in passing the Cook County Human Rights Ordinance in 1993, a
8 measure designed to protect all people who live and work in the
9 county from discrimination and sexual harassment based on a
10 variety of instances, including sexual orientation; and

11 WHEREAS, Judge Chiola, while volunteering as an attorney
12 for the Legal Clinic for the Disabled, learned HIV/AIDS
13 patients were refused advice; he worked with various
14 organizations to organize a free legal project that allotted
15 legal services for patients who would otherwise have no other
16 option; his humanitarian efforts continued as an active
17 participant in fundraising efforts for the Chicago office of
18 the Lambda Legal Defense and Education Fund, the NAMES
19 Project, and the HIV/AIDS agency Vital Bridges, previously
20 known as Open Hand; and

21 WHEREAS, Judge Chiola has received a number of accolades
22 for his work, including being inducted into the Chicago Gay
23 and Lesbian Hall of Fame for his unparalleled career and

1 community efforts and receiving the Judicial Leadership Award
2 by the Gay and Lesbian Legal Alliance from John Marshall Law
3 School in 2006; he also served as the president of the Alliance
4 of Illinois Judges, an organizational resource for fellow gay
5 and lesbian judges; and

6 WHEREAS, Judge Chiola has been a pioneering public
7 servant, an ardent advocate for human rights, and an exemplary
8 example to the legal profession and the LGBT community;
9 therefore, be it

10 RESOLVED, BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE
11 HUNDRED FOURTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, that
12 we recognize the Honorable Thomas R. Chiola on his
13 extraordinary career and contributions to the State as the
14 first openly gay elected official in Illinois; and be it
15 further

16 RESOLVED, That a suitable copy of this resolution be
17 presented to Judge Chiola as an expression of our esteem and
18 respect.