



SR1002

LRB103 40765 LAW 73594 r

1

SENATE RESOLUTION

2

WHEREAS, The members of the Illinois Senate are saddened to learn of the death of Rickye Denise "Rikki" Jones, who passed away on April 21, 2024; and

3

4

5

WHEREAS, Rikki Jones was born to Mercedes Jones and Willis Jones in Chicago on August 12, 1950; she was raised by her grandparents, Marie and Wilbur Williams, and her aunt, Patricia "Pat" Williams; she attended St. Martin Catholic School and graduated from St. Thomas the Apostle High School in Hyde Park; she pursued higher education at Illinois Benedictine College and spent a semester at sea through Chapman College, studying and traveling in Asia; she later obtained her master's degree from the University of Phoenix; and

6

7

8

9

10

11

12

13

14

15

WHEREAS, Rikki Jones was a beloved educator, a passionate community activist, and a tireless champion of political empowerment; her teaching career spanned many years at the City Colleges of Chicago and the Chicago Public School system, where her deep passion and love for young children were evident in her unwavering availability and willingness to help whenever and however she could, remaining dedicated to uplifting others through education and advocacy; and

16

17

18

19

20

21

22

1           WHEREAS, Throughout her life, Rikki Jones was at the  
2           forefront of the fight for rights and opportunities, beginning  
3           at the age of 17 when she became involved with Operation  
4           Breadbasket, organized by the Southern Christian Leadership  
5           Conference (SCLC) and later transformed into Operation PUSH,  
6           and the Black Panther Party Breakfast Program; and

7           WHEREAS, Rikki Jones' passion for civic engagement led to  
8           34 years of leadership with the Cook County Democratic Women,  
9           an organization committed to advancing women's rights and  
10          political representation; she was responsible for launching  
11          the careers of various political leaders, as well as  
12          advocating for numerous campaigns, including Mayor Harold  
13          Washington, U.S. Senator Carol Mosley Braun, President Barack  
14          Obama, Associate Justice Ketanji Brown Jackson of the U.S.  
15          Supreme Court, Speaker Emanuel "Chris" Welch of the Illinois  
16          House of Representatives, and many more; she attended the 1996  
17          Democratic National Convention after serving as a volunteer  
18          worker on President Bill Clinton's campaign and was chosen as  
19          a delegate for the 2024 Democratic National Convention in  
20          support for President Joe Biden and Vice President Kamala  
21          Harris; and

22          WHEREAS, Rikki Jones was a regular guest speaker on such  
23          WVON shows as the Cliff Kelly Show and the Perri Small Show,  
24          where she advocated for her community and provided helpful

1 information; and

2 WHEREAS, Rikki Jones was the recipient of several  
3 accolades during her life, including the Dunbar Vocational  
4 Career Academy Service Award; she was further honored by Cook  
5 County Clerk Dorothy Brown and U.S. Senator Dick Durbin as  
6 well as at the Power Rising Conference; and

7 WHEREAS, Rikki Jones committed to her faith at an early  
8 age, being baptized at Holy Immanuel Episcopal Church as an  
9 infant; she served as an active member in Sunday school and the  
10 children's choir, participating in all church pageants; as an  
11 adult, she was baptized at Maryland Avenue Missionary Baptist  
12 Church, where she served as youth director for many years; she  
13 was a dedicated member of Pleasant Gift Missionary Baptist  
14 Church, serving on the boards of trustees and nursing, working  
15 in the youth group, serving as a Sunday school teacher, and  
16 leading a special project for the outreach ministry; and

17 WHEREAS, Rikki Jones deeply loved her family and was  
18 affectionately known as "Aunt Rikki" to all of her younger  
19 family members; she shared a special bond with her Aunt Pat and  
20 adored her cousins, Ann Marie and Joy, who were like sisters;  
21 and

22 WHEREAS, Rikki Jones made an indelible mark on her

1 community; she will be remembered for her unwavering  
2 commitment to social justice and equality, inspiring  
3 generations to come; and

4 WHEREAS, Rikki Jones was preceded in death by her  
5 grandparents; her parents; and her brothers, Kenneth (Val)  
6 Wilbur and Wayne (Ann) Vincent; and

7 WHEREAS, Rikki Jones is survived by her aunt; her nieces  
8 and nephews, Marie, Nicole, Vincent, Kenneth, and Autumn; her  
9 cousins; her great-cousins, Jonathan, Jeremy, Olivia, Kathryn,  
10 and Alexander; her great-nephews, Rahaman, Rahsul, and  
11 Rahfeeq; her great-nieces, Noa and Hannah; her special  
12 friends, Reverend Krista Alston and her extended family; and a  
13 host of family, friends, students, her church family, and the  
14 political community; therefore, be it

15 RESOLVED, BY THE SENATE OF THE ONE HUNDRED THIRD GENERAL  
16 ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, that we mourn the passing of  
17 Rickye Denise "Rikki" Jones and extend our sincere condolences  
18 to her family, friends, and all who knew and loved her; and be  
19 it further

20 RESOLVED, That a suitable copy of this resolution be  
21 presented to the family of Rikki Jones as an expression of our  
22 deepest sympathy.