



HR0071

LRB098 10459 GRL 40680 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 Cardiss  
4 Collins, who passed away on February 3, 2013; and

5           WHEREAS, Cardiss Collins was born on September 24, 1931, in  
6 St. Louis, Missouri; her parents were Finley and Rosia Mae  
7 Robertson; she married George Washington Collins in 1958; and

8           WHEREAS, After graduating from Detroit High School of  
9 Commerce, Cardiss Collins worked in a mattress factory while  
10 attending night classes at Northwestern University, where she  
11 earned a business certificate in 1966 and a diploma in  
12 professional accounting a year later; after college, she  
13 remained in Chicago and worked for the Illinois Department of  
14 Labor as a secretary; she later worked with the Illinois  
15 Department of Revenue as an auditor until her election to  
16 Congress; and

17           WHEREAS, Following the death of her husband, Cardiss  
18 Collins took his place as Representative of Illinois' 7th  
19 Congressional District, which includes Austin and the greater  
20 West Side; she served from 1973 until her retirement in 1995;  
21 and

1           WHEREAS, Cardiss Collins was the first black woman elected  
2 to Congress from Illinois and the Midwest; she was the first  
3 African American and woman selected as a Democratic Whip  
4 At-Large; she also served as chair of the Congressional Black  
5 Caucus from 1979 to 1981 and was only the second woman at the  
6 time to hold that leadership position; and

7           WHEREAS, During her tenure in Congress, Cardiss Collins was  
8 responsible for numerous public initiatives; in 1993, she  
9 introduced the Equality in Athletic Disclosure Act, which  
10 directed colleges and universities to publicize the rate of  
11 program participation by gender; as chair of the Manpower and  
12 Housing and Government Activities and Transportation  
13 subcommittee from 1983 to 1991, she worked to improve safety in  
14 air travel and fought for stricter controls on the  
15 transportation of toxic materials; in the 1980s, she stridently  
16 defended affirmative action by drawing attention to the hiring  
17 practices of U.S. airlines, which rarely placed African  
18 Americans in professional positions; her push for equality in  
19 the aviation industry helped pave the way for an amendment to  
20 the Airport and Airway Safety, Capacity, and Expansion Act of  
21 1987, requiring that 10% of all concession stands in airports  
22 be run by minority- and women-owned businesses; she worked to  
23 prevent federal tax write-offs for advertising firms that  
24 discriminated against minority-owned media companies; she also  
25 co-sponsored the Universal Health Care Act and the Health

1 Security Act in 1993 and introduced a law designating the month  
2 of October as National Breast Cancer Awareness Month; and

3 WHEREAS, In recognition of her commitment to gender equity  
4 in athletics, Cardiss Collins was inducted into the Women's  
5 Sports Hall of Fame in 1994; therefore, be it

6 RESOLVED, BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE  
7 NINETY-EIGHTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, that  
8 we mourn, along with his family and friends, the passing of  
9 Cardiss Collins; and be it further

10 RESOLVED, That a suitable copy of this resolution be  
11 presented to the family of Cardiss Collins as an expression of  
12 our sympathy.