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LRB100 12601 MST 25816 r

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SENATE RESOLUTION

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WHEREAS, The members of the Illinois Senate are saddened to learn of the death of Audrey Helen Nixon of North Chicago, who passed away on April 27, 2017 at the age of 81; and

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WHEREAS, Audrey Nixon began her service in 1982 serving in District 14 and was the longest-serving Lake County Board member; she was a resident of North Chicago and also represented portions of Park City, Waukegan, and Gurnee; she was the longtime Chair of the Law and Judicial Committee, making her one of the few Democrats to retain a leadership post for any significant duration; and

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WHEREAS, Audrey Nixon was known as a passionate representative for her district, which included some of Lake County's poorest neighborhoods; she fought to keep county buildings and offices in Waukegan and was a champion of the Greenbelt Cultural Center, a facility near North Chicago that was created and operated by the Lake County Forest Preserve District; and

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WHEREAS, Audrey Nixon cared deeply about people and made it her life's purpose to help them; she was a tireless advocate for programs that promote and advance diversity and inclusion and focused on initiatives that could transform young lives for

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1 the better; she was very passionate about Youth Build, which  
2 provides at-risk young adults with the education and training  
3 necessary to build the best future possible; she often spoke of  
4 the need for consensus on complicated or controversial issues,  
5 and for working together in pursuit of doing right by  
6 constituents; and

7 WHEREAS, Audrey Nixon served on numerous boards and  
8 commissions including the Enterprise Commission, the Minority  
9 Affairs Commission, the Private Industry Council, the National  
10 Association of Counties Justice and Public Safety Steering  
11 Committee, the Illinois Association of Park Districts, the  
12 North Chicago Leadership Council, the District 187 Steering  
13 Committee, the NAACP Emblem Chapter 140, the BET Organization,  
14 the Shawall Court #4 Daughter of Isis, the League of Women  
15 Voters, and the Waukegan Township Coalition to Reduce Past and  
16 Present Recidivism; and

17 WHEREAS, Audrey Nixon was very committed to her church and  
18 community and was a member of Christian Valley Missionary  
19 Baptist Church in North Chicago; she will be remembered for her  
20 quiet strength, wisdom, fearless persistence, and sense of  
21 optimism that made her an exceptional leader; and

22 WHEREAS, Audrey Nixon is survived by her children, Rodney,  
23 Tonya, and Anthony; and 20 grandchildren; therefore, be it

1           RESOLVED, BY THE SENATE OF THE ONE HUNDREDTH GENERAL  
2 ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, that we mourn the passing of  
3 Audrey Helen Nixon, and extend our sincere condolences to her  
4 family, friends, and all who knew and loved her; and be it  
5 further

6           RESOLVED, That a suitable copy of this resolution be  
7 presented to the family of Audrey Nixon as an expression of our  
8 deepest sympathy.