



HR0037

LRB102 11336 ECR 16669 r

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HOUSE RESOLUTION

2           WHEREAS, The members of the Illinois House of  
3 Representatives wish to commend the life and legacy of Betty  
4 Friedan and the impact she made on human rights; and

5           WHEREAS, Betty Friedan was born in Peoria on February 4,  
6 1921; she graduated as valedictorian of Peoria High School in  
7 1938 and then graduated with highest honors from Smith College  
8 in 1942; she spent a year on a graduate fellowship at the  
9 University of California Berkeley to train as a psychologist  
10 and then received the honor of a second fellowship from the  
11 university, the first to be awarded to a psychologist or a  
12 woman; and

13           WHEREAS, In 1963, Betty Friedan's study of the lives of  
14 women in the post World War Two era was published in the  
15 historic nonfiction book, *The Feminine Mystique*; and

16           WHEREAS, Betty Friedan was a trailblazer in launching the  
17 modern women's rights movement by identifying "the problem  
18 that has no name" in her book, *The Feminine Mystique*, which  
19 became one of the most influential books of the 1900s; and

20           WHEREAS, In 1966, Betty Friedan helped found the National  
21 Organization of Women (NOW), an organization advocating for

1 equality that became the largest feminist organization in the  
2 United States; and

3 WHEREAS, Betty Friedan helped form NOW's original purpose  
4 statement codifying the aim of the organization to "take  
5 action to bring women into full participation in the  
6 mainstream of American society now, exercising all the  
7 privileges and responsibilities thereof in truly equal  
8 partnership with men."; and

9 WHEREAS, Betty Friedan advocated for many historical  
10 advancements, including the creation of the Equal Employment  
11 Opportunity Commission (EEOC), the initial barring of gender  
12 discrimination in employment, and the expansion of  
13 discrimination protections to include race, color, religion,  
14 and/or national origin; and

15 WHEREAS, Throughout her life, Betty Friedan continued to  
16 publish many groundbreaking books, including *It Changed My*  
17 *Life: Writings on the Women's Movement*, *The Second Stage*, *The*  
18 *Fountain of Age*, *Beyond Gender: The New Politics of Work and*  
19 *Family*, and *Life So Far: A Memoir*; and

20 WHEREAS, Betty Friedan played an integral role in the  
21 women's movement by changing the way the United States views  
22 gender roles; and

1           WHEREAS, Betty Friedan dedicated her life to the  
2 advancement of rights for women as well as for children,  
3 working families, and the elderly; and

4           WHEREAS, In 2006, Betty Friedan passed away on her  
5 birthday at the age of 85; and

6           WHEREAS, People across the country are celebrating what  
7 would have been Betty Friedan's 100th birthday on February 4,  
8 2021; therefore, be it

9           RESOLVED, BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE  
10 HUNDRED SECOND GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, that  
11 we commend the life and legacy of Betty Friedan.