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HOUSE RESOLUTION

WHEREAS, The members of the Illinois House of Representative were deeply saddened to learn of the death of Ed Marciniak of Chicago on May 23, 2004; and

WHEREAS, A life-long Chicago resident, Ed Marciniak was born on December 17, 1917, one of three children of the late Walter and Hattie; his father, a Polish immigrant, owned a South Side grocery store and bought and sold buildings in a small way; this forced Mr. Marciniak to attend different grade schools in four years as the family frequently moved; his parents instilled in Mr. Marciniak at an early age the values of kindness, friendship, tolerance, compassion for all people, a strong work ethic, and a steadfast belief in God; and

WHEREAS, He attended Quigley Preparatory Seminary and earned a bachelor's and master's degree in social administration from Loyola University; in his youth he was a labor activist during the Depression and read the Catholic Worker; as a college student he began advocating and speaking out for social justice issues, and as a college student in 1938 he joined the Catholic Worker movement and was active in the Chicago Inter-Student Catholic Action group and for many years headed the Catholic Labor Alliance; and

WHEREAS, Ed Marciniak was dedicated to his professional work, his community, and the issues he believed in, but his first love and his life's priority was always his family: his loving wife Virginia; their four daughters Kate, Christina, Francesca, and Claudia; and their eight grandchildren; and

WHEREAS, After graduation he stayed at Loyola University for 10 years, first teaching sociology, labor economics, and the city's first course in race relations in the 1940s; at the same time he began a journalism career by publishing Work

1 magazine; and

2 WHEREAS, From 1955 to 1960, he was international vice
3 president of the Newspaper Guild and negotiated contracts for
4 reporters with the Chicago Sun-Times; and

5 WHEREAS, Mayor Richard J. Daley named him executive
6 director of the Chicago Commission on Human Rights in 1960 and
7 he worked to improved race relations and promote integration,
8 particularly in education and housing, during a critical time
9 in the city's history; and

10 WHEREAS, In 1967, he became deputy commissioner of
11 development and planning for Chicago; he left city government
12 in 1973 to head the Institute of Urban Life and serve as
13 adjunct professor of urban studies at Loyola University, a post
14 he held until his death; and

15 WHEREAS, Ed Marciniak served as a special consultant to the
16 U.S. Civil Rights Commission and led integration efforts at all
17 levels, from local apartment buildings to the board rooms of
18 Fortune 500 companies; and

19 WHEREAS, He created a scholarship fund for children in
20 public housing to help them attend private schools, he
21 contributed many articles to local and national journals, and
22 authored and published several books including "Reclaiming the
23 Inner City", "Reviving an Inner-City Community", "Reversing
24 Urban Decline", "Non-Profits with Hard Hats", and "The Role of
25 Chicago's Private Schools in Neighborhood Revitalization"; and

26 WHEREAS, Mr. Marciniak gave his time and energy to over 150
27 community organizations by serving on their boards, including
28 the Chicago Urban League, Neighborhood Housing Services, the
29 City Club, the Community Investment Corporation, the Illinois
30 Humane Society for Children, and the Lira Ensemble, a

1 Polish-American music group; and

2 WHEREAS, Mr. Marciniak was a man of deep faith who
3 contributed to his church, St. Ita, in many ways; and he was
4 very devoted to the improved development of his Edgewater
5 community; and

6 WHEREAS, The voice of Ed Marciniak resounded across Chicago
7 for more than 60 years, as he fought for civil rights and
8 social justice in education, labor, affordable housing, and
9 neighborhood development; and

10 WHEREAS, Throughout his life, Ed Marciniak approached his
11 teaching and work with the belief that change is possible, with
12 confidence in the goodness of humanity, and with the
13 willingness to help individuals realize their personal power
14 and reach their fullest potential; and

15 WHEREAS, Ed Marciniak was loved and respected by thousands
16 of students, colleagues, and friends whose lives he forever
17 touched; and

18 WHEREAS, His passing will be deeply felt by many,
19 especially his daughters, Kate and Claudia, Dr. Christina
20 Marciniak, and Francesca M. Maher; his sister, Bernice Barta;
21 and his eight grandchildren; therefore, be it

22 RESOLVED, BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE
23 NINETY-THIRD GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, that we
24 mourn the death of Ed Marciniak, a great Illinoisan, along with
25 all who knew him and loved him and extend our sincere
26 condolences to his family and friends; and be it further

27 RESOLVED, That a suitable copy of this resolution be
28 presented to the family of Ed Marciniak as an expression of our
29 deepest sympathy.