



HR0062

LRB098 10433 GRL 40643 r

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HOUSE RESOLUTION

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WHEREAS, The members of the Illinois House of Representatives are saddened to learn of the death of Cardiss Collins, who passed away on February 3, 2013; and

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

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

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

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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

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

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

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