



Board of Commissioners of Cook County

118 North Clark Street
Chicago, IL

Legislation Text

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PROPOSED RESOLUTION

RESOLUTION OF THE COOK COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS CONGRATULATING REVEREND JESSE L. JACKSON, SR. ON THE CELEBRATION OF HIS 75th BIRTHDAY

WHEREAS, Reverend Jesse Louis Jackson, Sr., was born on October 8, 1941 in Greenville, South Carolina, to Helen Burns and Noah Louis Robinson; and,

WHEREAS, Reverend Jesse L. Jackson, Sr. graduated from North Carolina A&T State University in 1964. Reverend Jackson was ordained into the ministry on June 30, 1968 by Reverend Clay Evans and received his Master's Degree in Divinity from Chicago Theological Seminary in 2000; and,

WHEREAS, Reverend Jackson married his college sweetheart Jacqueline Lavinia Brown in 1963. They have five children: Santita Jackson, Congressman Jesse L. Jackson, Jr., Jonathan Luther Jackson, Yusef DuBois Jackson, Esq., and Jacqueline Lavinia Jackson, Jr.; and,

WHEREAS, Reverend Jackson served as a full-time organizer for the Southern Christian Leadership Conference (SCLC) and was eventually appointed by Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. to direct the Operation Breadbasket program; and,

WHEREAS, Operation Breadbasket celebrated its 50th anniversary in 2016; and,

WHEREAS, In December of 1971, Reverend Jackson founded Operation PUSH (People United to Serve Humanity) in Chicago. In 1984, Reverend Jackson founded the National Rainbow Coalition, a social justice organization based in Washington, D.C. devoted to political empowerment, education, and changing public policy. In September of 1996, the Rainbow Coalition and Operation PUSH merged to form the Rainbow PUSH Coalition to continue the work of both organizations and to maximize resources; and,

WHEREAS, Reverend Jackson's 1984 presidential campaign registered over one million new voters, won 3.5 million votes, and helped the Democratic Party regain control of the Senate in 1986; and,

WHEREAS, Reverend Jackson's 1988 presidential campaign registered over two million new voters, won seven million votes, and helped boost hundreds of state and local elected officials into office, while inspiring millions to join the American political process; and,

WHEREAS, on May 2, 1999, three United States soldiers held captive in Kosovo were released as the direct result of diplomatic negotiations undertaken by Reverend Jackson on behalf of the United States of America; and,

WHEREAS, in 2000, President Bill Clinton awarded Reverend Jackson the Presidential Medal of Freedom, the nation's highest civilian honor. In 2009, UK Prime Minister Gordon Brown bestowed the Global Diversity and Inclusion Award on Reverend Jackson at 10 Downing Street.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, by the President and Cook County Board of Commissioners that Reverend Jesse L. Jackson, Sr. is to be congratulated on the occasion of his 75th birthday, and that the sincere appreciation of the President and the Cook County Board of Commissioners is to be extended to Reverend Jesse L. Jackson, Sr. for his service to all of humanity, the nation, and the world.

