



Board of Commissioners of Cook County

118 North Clark Street
Chicago, IL

Legislation Text

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PROPOSED RESOLUTION

HONORING THE LIFE OF MRS. HELEN MILLER, LONGTIME LEADER OF THE SERVICE EMPLOYEES INTERNATIONAL UNION (SEIU)

WHEREAS, Mrs. Helen Miller was a leader in the field of home-care, having served the sick and elderly for 40 years in Chicago and supporting her fellow workers in the struggle for fair wages and benefits; and

WHEREAS, Mrs. Helen Miller was born as Helen Ruth Ashford on May 26, 1936 to Buster and Clara Ashford in Louisville, Kentucky; and

WHEREAS, Mrs. Miller moved to Chicago after graduating high school, where she found work in industrial laundries, and soon after married Collin Miller; and

WHEREAS, after several years, Mrs. Helen Miller became a home-care worker, a profession to which she dedicated the rest of her career; and

WHEREAS, Mrs. Helen Miller became engaged in workers' rights activism during the 1980s through SEIU Local 880, when home-care workers were considered independent contractors whose wages were below the prevailing wage; and

WHEREAS, Mrs. Helen Miller became a fierce advocate for the home-care profession and a champion for fair wages in an often-overlooked field while caring deeply for those she served; and

WHEREAS, Mrs. Helen Miller was elected President of SEIU in 1999, after having served as its Treasurer and Vice-President; and

WHEREAS, in this role, she organized home-care workers and led protests and rallies for workers' rights locally and in other cities' and

WHEREAS, her efforts successfully helped increase wages and equipped workers with the ability to negotiate for health insurance as well as participate in state-funded training programs, which are now named after Mrs. Helen Miller; and

WHEREAS, Mrs. Helen Miller passed away on March 5, 2019 and is survived by her sister, Johnnie Wells, and her brother, Hayward Ashford.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Cook County Board of Commissioners and the President to the Board do hereby honor the life and contributions of dedicated union leader, Mrs. Helen Miller; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that a suitable copy of this resolution be tendered to the friends and family

of Mrs. Helen Miller.