

RESOLUTION

WHEREAS, Marian Lois Shields Robinson, born in Chicago on July 29, 1937, to parents Rebecca Jumper and Purnell Nathaniel Shields, passed away on May 31st, 2024. Marian was born the fourth of seven siblings here in Chicago. Marian attended two years of teaching college before beginning her career as a secretary. In her work, she was a secretary at the mail-order retailer Spiegel, a bank, and here on the Southside at the University of Chicago.

WHEREAS, Marian married fellow Chicagoan Fraser Robinson III, on October 27, 1960. Together they had two children: Craig and Michelle. Marian became a stay-at-home mother, stressed the importance of education to her children, and advocated for them strongly. Both of her children ended up earning degrees from an Ivy League school.

WHEREAS, Later in Life, Marian became a rock for her daughter and granddaughters during their time in Washington D.C.. In 2009, Marian's son-in-law, Barack Obama was elected the 44th president of the United States. During his campaign and their 8 years in the White House, Marian stepped up as a caretaker for her two granddaughters, Sasha and Malia Obama.

WHEREAS, A Southsider through and through, Marian raised her kids in the South Shore neighborhood. She continued to live there until she followed the Obamas to the White House to help provide her granddaughters a sense of normalcy during their father's presidency. After the Obamas left office, Marian returned to Chicago where she lived out her remaining years.


WHEREAS, That South Shore home has become somewhat of a monument in the South Side of Chicago –a memorial to the legacy of her daughter, her son-in-law, and their beginnings here. Michelle could not speak higher of her, crediting her with much of the success and stability in her life. Marian sent her children to our Chicago Public Schools and took them to Chicago Public Libraries from a very early age.

WHEREAS, The Chicago City Council has been informed of this occasion by the Alderman of the 4th Ward, Lamont J. Robinson; and

BE IT RESOLVED, That we, the Mayor and members of the City Council of the City of Chicago do hereby honor Marian Robinson and celebrate her life, thank her for her service, and express our appreciation for her contributions to the community; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that suitable copies of this resolution be prepared and presented to Marian Robinson's family.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Lamont J. Robinson", written over a horizontal line.

Alderman Lamont J. Robinson, 4th Ward