

RESOLUTION

WHEREAS, Rickye (Rikki) Denise Jones, born in Chicago on August 12, 1950, to parents Mercedes Jones and Willis Jones, transitioned peacefully on April 21st, 2024. Rikki was baptized at Holy Immanuel Episcopal Church, attended St. Martin Catholic School, and graduated from St. Thomas the Apostle High School in Hyde Park. Rikki pursued higher education at Illinois Benedictine College and spent a semester at sea through Chapman College.

WHEREAS, Rikki became interested in politics at 17 and later started a career in teaching. Rikki taught at the City Colleges of Chicago and the Chicago Public School system. She continued to be a staunch supporter of political activism, she advocated for three principles who walked out due to lack of due process.

WHEREAS, Valuing an equitable educational environment, Rikki was involved in different organizations, committed to improving the socio-economic conditions of the Black community, such as the Southern Christian Leadership Conference's "Breadbasket" program through the Rainbow Push Coalition, and the Black Panther Party's Breakfast Program.

WHEREAS, Rikki had a 34-year leadership career with Cook County Democratic Women, in which she spearheaded democratic campaigns, and contributed to launching the careers of political leaders, such as Bill Clinton, Barack Obama, and Vice President Kamala Harris.

WHEREAS, In 2008 during Barack Obama's presidential run, Rikki ran a campaign office out of Chicago and was credited for his win in Indiana. In 2024, Rikki was chosen as a delegate for the Democratic National Convention supporting President Biden and Vice President Harris.

WHEREAS, Rikki was a dedicated Pleasant Gift Missionary Baptist Church member, in her adult life, she was baptized at Maryland Avenue Missionary Baptist Church and served as a Youth Director for many years. At Pleasant Gift, she also served on the trustee and nursing boards, worked in the youth group, and was a dedicated Sunday school teacher.

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 Rickye (Rikki) Denise Jones 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 Rickye (Rikki) Denise Jones' 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