



Very truly yours,

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## *cdopud by Tlie Gity Qouncil ofthe Qity of Qkicago, Illinois*

*'Presented by Mayor Rahm Emanuel . on*

*Aldermen Edward M. Burke, Carrie M. Austin, Patrick J. O'Connor, Joe Moore, Harry Osterman, and*

*June 27, 2018*

Members of this Chamber were deeply saddened to learn of the death of Marion Voith on May 21, 2018, at age 83, of our former colleague, Alderman Marion Voith of the 48<sup>th</sup> Ward; and

WHEREAS, Alderman Voith was born on November 27, 1934 on Chicago's south side to Marion Mitchell and Edward J. Kennedy. She attended Maria High School, and later moved to the City's north side to attend and graduate from Mundelein College; and

she has five children. In addition to her work in politics, she has been active in her community.

WHEREAS, Alderman Voith was instrumental in leading efforts to upgrade the Edgewater and Uptown neighborhoods, which at that time were known as a deteriorated area; and

WHEREAS, Through her leadership and vigorous efforts, Alderman Voith improved the area, addressing issues such as the large transient population, unemployed workers, property owners, and vacant storefronts; and

WHEREAS, Alderman Voith also took on the many unlicensed and unregulated alcohol treatment clinics, as well as half-way houses for state-released patients of mental health facilities, in order to improve the quality of life for residents throughout her neighborhood; and

WHEREAS, Alderman Voith also served her community as president of the Edgewater Community Council. Among her many accomplishments was the preservation of the Broadway Armory as a community recreation center; and

WHEREAS, With her reputation as a community leader firmly established, in 1978 Alderman Voiini ran for and won a special election to serve out the unexpired term of 48th Ward Alderman Dennis Block; and

WHEREAS, Alderman Voiini celebrated the broad diversity of the 48th Ward, finding great value in the wide range of housing types, ethnicities, and ages of its residents. She was an early proponent of the gay rights movement, and was a driving force in the creation of Edgewater as an official community area; and

WHEREAS, During her time as alderman, Alderman Voiini served under Chicago's first female mayor, Jane Byrne. Throughout her career she was dedicated to empowering more women to run for political office; and

WHEREAS, Alderman Voiini also served under Chicago's first African American mayor, Harold Washington. Drawing upon her experience as a community organizer representing a very diverse population, Alderman Voiini gained national attention when she helped negotiate a compromise to a four-week stalemate between Mayor Washington and a majority of alderman opposed to his policies; and

WHEREAS, Alderman Voiini's efforts on this issue caused her to emerge as a leader in the City Council. Her motivation to assume a leadership role was her belief in the process to equal distribute the government's resources. She believed that no one should be excluded from the political process because of race, gender, or religion.

WHEREAS, Alderman Voiini's efforts to revitalize Edgewater and the surrounding areas have been instrumental in helping to make improvements to both the Navy Pier and the surrounding area.

WHEREAS, Alderman Voiini continued to serve the residents of Chicago by being appointed to the Metropolitan Pier and Authority, during which time she was instrumental in helping to make improvements to both the Navy Pier and the surrounding area.

WHEREAS, Alderman Voiini was a strong advocate for her constituents, and offered her colleagues on the City Council thoughtful consideration of often difficult and controversial matters. She had an exceptional talent for finding the common ground between parties with differences, and often had friends on both sides of an issue. She had a warm, thoughtful and intelligent nature, a strong sense of fairness and a passion for justice, and will always be remembered as an exemplary public servant of the residents of Chicago; and

WHEREAS, Alderman Voiini, whose husband preceded her in death in 2001, is survived by her sons Michael and David; daughters Marion, Marcella, and Monica; and grandchildren Mary Claire, Nora, Tom, Joe, Matt, Ryan, Christian, Camille, Emily, and Michael; now, therefore

BE IT RESOLVED, That we, the Mayor and Members of the City Council of the City of Chicago, assembled this twenty-seventh day of June, 2018, do hereby honor the life and memory of Alderman Marion Voiini; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That suitable copies of this resolution be presented to the family of Alderman Marion Voiini as a token of our sympathy and esteem.