

SENATE RESOLUTION No. 112

STATE OF NEW JERSEY

217th LEGISLATURE

INTRODUCED MARCH 13, 2017

Sponsored by:

Senator JENNIFER BECK

District 11 (Monmouth)

Senator CHRISTOPHER "KIP" BATEMAN

District 16 (Hunterdon, Mercer, Middlesex and Somerset)

Co-Sponsored by:

**Senators Thompson, Oroho, Connors, Doherty, Addiego, Kyrillos,
Pennacchio, Holzapfel, Cardinale, Allen, Singer and T.Kean**

SYNOPSIS

Honors Millicent Fenwick's life, memory, and accomplishments.

CURRENT VERSION OF TEXT

As introduced.



SR112 BECK, BATEMAN

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1 **A SENATE RESOLUTION** honoring Millicent Fenwick’s life,
2 memory, and accomplishments.
3
4 **WHEREAS**, Millicent Fenwick was a colorful public figure, known for
5 her pipe smoking and patrician manner, who provided the citizens
6 of New Jersey with more than 50 years of public service; and
7 **WHEREAS**, Born in New York City in 1910, Millicent Fenwick
8 attended Columbia University and studied with the philosopher
9 Bertrand Russell at the New School for Social Research before
10 working on several Conde Nast publications, including *Vogue*; and
11 **WHEREAS**, Millicent Fenwick’s career in politics began in the 1930’s
12 when, in response to the rise of Adolf Hitler, she joined the
13 National Conference of Christians and Jews and began speaking
14 publicly in opposition to anti-Semitism; and
15 **WHEREAS**, A longtime resident of Bernardsville, New Jersey,
16 Millicent Fenwick began her career in public service by serving on
17 the Bernardsville Board of Education, chairing the Somerset
18 County Legal Aid Society and the Bernardsville Recreation
19 Commission, and serving as a member of the Bernardsville
20 Borough Council; and
21 **WHEREAS**, Millicent Fenwick was elected to the New Jersey General
22 Assembly in 1970, where, during her first term in office, she was
23 the prime sponsor of an enactment that amended the State’s civil
24 rights laws to prohibit discrimination on the basis of sex or marital
25 status; and
26 **WHEREAS**, Following her tenure in the General Assembly, Millicent
27 Fenwick served as the State’s first Director of the Division of
28 Consumer Affairs before winning a seat in the United States House
29 of representatives in 1974; and
30 **WHEREAS**, Known for her independence, integrity, outspokenness,
31 and wit, during her four terms in Congress Millicent Fenwick was a
32 fervent advocate for human rights, fiscal conservatism, and
33 campaign finance reform; and
34 **WHEREAS**, Dubbed the “Conscience of Congress” by the news anchor
35 Walter Cronkite, Millicent Fenwick was a national figure who also
36 served as the basis for Garry Trudeau’s *Doonesbury* character,
37 Lacey Davenport; and
38 **WHEREAS**, In addition to speaking out against anti-Semitism during
39 the rise of fascism and working to end discrimination on the basis
40 of sex in New Jersey, Millicent Fenwick’s lifelong commitment to
41 civil rights included joining the National Association for the
42 Advancement of Colored People in 1946, serving for more than a
43 decade on the New Jersey committee to the U.S. Commission on
44 Civil Rights, championing the Equal Rights Amendment, and
45 helping create the 1975 Helsinki Agreement on Human Rights and
46 the U.S. Commission on Security and Cooperation in Europe,
47 which monitors compliance with the agreement; and

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1 **WHEREAS**, After leaving the House of Representatives, Millicent
2 Fenwick was appointed to the United Nations Food and Agriculture
3 Organization, where she served with the rank of ambassador before
4 retiring to Bernardsville, where she lived until her death in 1992;
5 and

6 **WHEREAS**, In 2011, New Jersey designated the month of March as
7 Women’s History Month in recognition of the many
8 accomplishments of American women and the contributions they
9 have made to the history of both New Jersey and the United States;
10 and

11 **WHEREAS**, Millicent Fenwick’s years of public service, integrity,
12 independence, and commitment to women’s rights, civil rights, and
13 human rights distinguish her as an admirable and inspirational
14 figure in New Jersey history; and

15 **WHEREAS**, It is therefore appropriate, during Women’s History
16 Month, to recognize and celebrate Millicent Fenwick’s life and her
17 many deeds and accomplishments; now, therefore,

18

19 **BE IT RESOLVED** *by the Senate of the State of New Jersey:*

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21 1. The Senate hereby honors and commemorates the life,
22 memory, and accomplishments of Millicent Fenwick, including her
23 commitment to women’s rights, civil rights, and human rights, her
24 integrity and independence throughout her more than 50 years of
25 public service, and her outspoken advocacy for causes of justice.

26

27 2. Copies of this resolution, as filed with the Secretary of State,
28 shall be transmitted by the Secretary of the Senate to the Governor.

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STATEMENT

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33 This Senate Resolution honors and commemorates the life,
34 memory, and accomplishments of Millicent Fenwick, a longtime
35 resident of Bernardsville who spent more than 50 years in public
36 service, including serving in the New Jersey General Assembly and
37 in the United States House of Representatives. Millicent Fenwick
38 was an outspoken advocate for causes that included women’s rights,
39 civil rights, and human rights. Known for her wit, integrity, and
40 independence, Millicent Fenwick was the inspiration for the
41 *Doonesbury* character Lacey Davenport and was dubbed by Walter
42 Cronkite as the “Conscience of Congress.”

43 March is Women’s History Month in New Jersey, and it is
44 therefore appropriate to celebrate the life, achievements, and
45 memory of Millicent Fenwick, an inspiring and colorful figure in
46 the history of New Jersey.