



State Senator  
**Chuck Chvala**  
SENATE MAJORITY LEADER

TO: Members of the Committee on Senate Organization

FROM: Senator Chuck Chvala  
Chair

Date: March 1, 2000

SUBJECT: **Senate Joint Resolution 36**

**Relating to the life and public service of Bernice K. Rose.**

I am recommending adoption of the attached joint resolution. Please review and indicate your approval by signing below. Please forward this ballot to the next office listed. Thank you.

*Chuck Chvala*

*3/2/00*

Senator Chuck Chvala

(Date)

*Fred Risser*  
Senator Fred Risser

*3-3-00*

(Date)

*Rodney Moen*  
Senator Rodney Moen

*3-3-00*

(Date)

*Mary E. Panzer*  
Senator Mary Panzer

*3-6-00*

(Date)

*Brian Rude*  
Senator Brian Rude

*3/7/00*

(Date)

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## 1999 SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION 36

1 **Relating to:** the life and public service of Bernice K. Rose.

2       Whereas, Bernice K. Rose was born on March 3, 1918, in Black Shear, Alabama,  
3 and moved to Milwaukee in 1952; and

4       Whereas, Bernice Rose was employed by the federal government in the Internal  
5 Revenue Service and U.S. Customs, receiving the Albert Gallatin Award (the highest  
6 award presented to an employe of the U.S. Treasury Department); and

7       Whereas, after the death of her husband, she won a special election in 1977 to  
8 become the first African-American woman elected to the Milwaukee County Board,  
9 representing parts of Milwaukee and Glendale and serving until 1992; and

10       Whereas, Bernice Rose was known as a "tough, opinionated and honest" civil  
11 rights activist involved in the NAACP during the Civil Rights Era and also as "a kind  
12 and decent woman who tried to do the public good"; and

13       Whereas, Bernice backed housing programs and aid for the elderly, including  
14 a senior center at North King Drive which was named after her husband, Clinton E.

1 Rose, and was known as “a special person whose care and love for people dominated  
2 everything she did”; and

3 Whereas, Mrs. Rose never had children of her own but hundreds of  
4 African–American women in Milwaukee considered her a mentor in politics,  
5 including Milwaukee County Supervisor Elizabeth Coggs–Jones, who stated “she  
6 was the best friend you could have”, and Senator Gwendolynne Moore, who  
7 attributes her first senate election campaign to Mrs. Rose’s counsel; and

8 Whereas, she wanted to be known as a hard worker who influenced civil rights,  
9 politics, mentored African–American women and made accomplishments for the  
10 “good of the community”; now, therefore, be it

11 ***Resolved by the senate, the assembly concurring, That*** the members of the  
12 Wisconsin legislature commend the public service that Bernice K. Rose contributed  
13 to Milwaukee County, express their sorrow at her death and extend their condolences  
14 to her family and friends; and, be it further

15 ***Resolved, That*** the senate chief clerk shall provide copies of this joint  
16 resolution to members of the Wisconsin Legislative Black and Hispanic Caucus,  
17 Milwaukee County Board, Milwaukee County Historical Society, Wisconsin Black  
18 Historical Society and America’s Black Holocaust Museum.

19 (END)