

1.1 A Senate resolution
1.2 honoring Charles Samuelson on the occasion of his retirement from the American Civil
1.3 Liberties Union of Minnesota.

1.4 **WHEREAS**, a New York native, Charles "Chuck" Samuelson moved to Minnesota in 1977
1.5 and devoted his career to work in nonprofit organizations; and

1.6 **WHEREAS**, in 1997, he was named the Executive Director of the American Civil Liberties
1.7 Union of Minnesota (ACLU-MN); and

1.8 **WHEREAS**, under his leadership, the ACLU-MN was transformed into a stable and influential
1.9 organization; and

1.10 **WHEREAS**, during his tenure as Executive Director, Samuelson brought focus to ACLU-MN
1.11 priorities by creating departments focusing on education, legislation, communications, and
1.12 development. The staff has grown from three to nine with a budget of around \$1 million a year;
1.13 and

1.14 **WHEREAS**, in 2005, he established the Greater Minnesota Racial Justice Program (GMRJP)
1.15 office in Bemidji to focus on rectifying gross injustices faced by Native Americans in the criminal
1.16 justice system. During the nine years the office was open, there were many great accomplishments;
1.17 and

1.18 **WHEREAS**, a second GMRJP office opened in Mankato in 2011, with a focus on racial
1.19 injustices faced by the immigrant community in Southwestern Minnesota; and

1.20 **WHEREAS**, during his tenure, the ACLU-MN took on landmark cases in Minnesota that
1.21 set precedent and shifted public awareness to advance civil liberties. As Executive Director,
1.22 Samuelson oversaw both the selection and promotion of these cases; and

2.1 **WHEREAS**, on February 28, 2017, Chuck Samuelson retired from the ACLU-MN after 20
2.2 years of service to the organization and to the defense of civil rights and civil liberties in the State
2.3 of Minnesota; and

2.4 **NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** by the Senate of the State of Minnesota that it
2.5 thanks and commends Charles "Chuck" Samuelson for his dedication to the defense of civil rights
2.6 and civil liberties in Minnesota, and extends best wishes to him for his retirement.

2.7 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that the Secretary of the Senate is directed to prepare an
2.8 enrolled copy of this resolution, to be authenticated by the Secretary's signature and that of the
2.9 Chair of the Senate Rules and Administration Committee, and transmit it to Charles Samuelson.