

**SENATE  
STATE OF MINNESOTA  
NINETY-THIRD SESSION**

**S.R. No. 73**

(SENATE AUTHORS: CHAMPION)

DATE  
02/22/2024

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Introduction  
Referred to Rules and Administration

OFFICIAL STATUS

A Senate resolution

declaring Saturday, June 17, 2023, as Norma Jean Williams Day.

**WHEREAS**, Norma Jean Williams was born in Des Moines, Iowa, on December 28, 1941, to parents Wallace O'Neal and Launa Q. Newman. Norma was the first of two children; and

**WHEREAS**, Norma moved to Minneapolis in 1965 with her two young daughters to join her mother and brother Wallace "Jack" Jackman and initiated her association with the Minnesota Spokesman-Recorder (then the Minneapolis Spokesman and the St. Paul Recorder); and

**WHEREAS**, in 1976, Norma became the paper's vice president, during which time she interviewed local and national notables. Her writing skills were also put to use when she interviewed visiting celebrities such as Eartha Kitt, Rosa Parks, James Brown, and B.B. King for the newspaper; and

**WHEREAS**, Norma's Bachelors and Bachelorettes weekly column that culminated in an annual gala event was very successful at providing opportunities for singles young and old to meet, so much so that many long-married couples now can trace their relationships back to Norma's matchmaking skills; and

**WHEREAS**, Norma's humor was quick and razor sharp, leading to a popular run as a stand-up comedian performing at various locations around the Twin Cities and as a radio personality on local radio stations KMOJ and KFAI; and

**WHEREAS**, later in life, Norma Jean Williams went back to school and earned a CNA certificate with the desire to serve and care for the elderly population; and

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** by the Senate of the State of Minnesota that it extends deepest condolences to the family and friends of Norma Jean Williams and that it declares Saturday, June 17, 2023, as "Norma Jean Williams Day" in Minnesota and commends its observance to all citizens.

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that the Secretary of the Senate is directed to prepare an enrolled copy of this resolution, to be authenticated by the Secretary's signature and that of the Chair of the Senate Rules and Administration Committee, and transmit it to the family of Norma Jean Williams.

Tom Bottern  
Secretary of the Senate

Kari Dziedzic  
Chair, Senate Committee on  
Rules and Administration

Bobby Joe Champion  
President of the Senate  
State Senator, District 59