Resolution EA R#3: In Recognition and Appreciation of
Supreme Court Justice Ruth Bader Ginsberg

Abstract: On the occasion of the death of Supreme Court Justice Ruth Bader Ginsberg, the Employee Assembly celebrates her long and distinguished career, her contributions to our country, and her unrelenting support of women and marginalized communities.

Sponsored by: Joseph Cannella, LGBTQ+ Representative at Large; Brandon Fortenberry, Student and Campus Life Representative; Kristie Mahoney, College of Human Ecology Representative; Rigel Lochner, Health and Safety Representative; Brenda Fisher, Women’s Representative at Large; Kit Tannenbaum, Non-Exempt Employee Representative At-Large; Nasser Siadat, 5 Years of Service Representative at Large; Brian Goodell, Facilities & Campus Services Representative; Laura Taylor, International Representative At-Large; Kate Supron, Division of University Relations Representative; Michelle Podolec, School of Industrial & Labor Relations Representative; Andrea Haenlin-Mott, Disability Representative At-Large; Marin Cherry, Cornell Tech Campus Representative; Debra Howell, Veteran’s Representative At-Large; Jenn Michael, College of Architecture, Art & Planning Representative; Lisa Zacharias, Division of Alumni Affairs and Development Representative

Reviewed by: Executive Committee, 09/29/2020

Whereas, Joan Ruth Bader attended Cornell University as an undergraduate majoring in government in the College of Arts and Sciences from 1950 through 1954, and;

Whereas, during her undergraduate career Bader worked as a researcher for Professor Robert Cushman, during which time she worked on tracking entertainment industry blacklists during the McCarthy era elevating her awareness of the Constitution, and was encouraged by Cushman to apply to law school, and;

Whereas, during her time at Cornell, Bader participated in the Women’s Self-Governance Association, a student government system within residence life, and;

Whereas, during her time at Cornell she met Martin Ginsburg, marrying him shortly after their graduation from Cornell in 1954, and;

Whereas, Ginsburg attended Harvard Law School, subsequently transferring to Columbia Law School, where she tied for first in her graduating class, all while becoming the first woman to be on two major law reviews, the Harvard Law Review and the Columbia Law Review, and;

Whereas, throughout her legal career, entered academia and served as a professor at Rutgers and
Columbia Law Schools, teaching Civil Procedure, and; Ginsburg worked to advance the rights of all people, particularly women and marginalized groups; including volunteer work at the American Civil Liberties Union, where, in 1972, she founded the Women’s Rights Project, and;

Whereas, Ginsburg argued six gender discrimination cases before the United States Supreme Court during the 1970s, winning five, and;

Whereas, Ginsburg was nominated by former President Carter to a seat on the United States Court of Appeals for the District of Columbia where she served from the time of her confirmation on June 18, 1980 to her appointment to the United States Supreme Court, and;

Whereas, Ginsburg was nominated by former President Clinton and appointed as an Associate Justice of the Supreme Court on August 10, 1993, and;

Whereas, since 1999 Justice Ginsburg battled five bouts of various types of cancer, all while upholding her promise to, “remain a member of the court as long as I can do the job full steam” (M. Sherman & J. Gresko, Associated Press, July 17, 2020), and;

Whereas, Justice Ginsburg ultimately died in her home to complications from metastatic pancreatic cancer on September 18, 2020 at the age of 87.

Be it therefore resolved, the Assembly hereby publicly recognizes Justice Ginsburg for her 66 years as a dedicated alumna Cornell embodying Cornell’s mission, and;

Be it therefore resolved, the Assembly publicly celebrates her 61 years of service as an advocate for equal justice for all, her 40 years of service in the US legal system, and her 27 years of service as Justice of the Supreme Court, and;

Be it further resolved, the Assembly requests that it be publicized and known across campus that Cornell flags fly at half-staff for the 27 days following the President Pollack’s acknowledgement/acceptance of this resolution, commemorating Justice Ginsburg’s time on the United States Supreme Court—one day for each year of her service on the Court, and;

Be it further resolved, the Assembly requests that President Pollack send a request to Governor Andrew Cuomo to issue an executive order permitting Cornell University to fly the United States Flag at half-staff for 27 days following receipt of the permission of Governor Cuomo, should it be granted, again commemorating Justice Ginsburg’s time on the United States Supreme Court—one day for each year of her service on the Court, and;

Be it finally resolved, a copy of this resolution be presented to Martha Pollack, President; Mary Opperman, Vice President and Chief Human Resources Officer; Joel Malina, Vice President for University Relations; Thomas Fleischman, News Editor, Cornell Chronicle.

Adopted by Vote of the Assembly (21-0-0); October 7, 2020.
Respectfully Submitted,
Joseph Cannella, LGBTQ+ Representative At-Large
Brandon Fortenberry, Student and Campus Life Representative
Kristie Mahoney, College of Human Ecology Representative
Rigel Lochner, Health and Safety Representative
Brenda Fisher, Women’s Representative at Large
Kit Tannenbaum, Non-Exempt Employee Representative At-Large
Nasser Siadat, 5 Years of Service Representative at Large
Brian Goodell, Facilities & Campus Services Representative
Laura Taylor, International Representative At-Large
Kate Supron, Division of University Relations Representative
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