



HR0209

LRB100 11908 MST 23555 r

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HOUSE RESOLUTION

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WHEREAS, The members of the Illinois House of Representatives are saddened to learn of the death of Deacon Willie T. Summerville of Urbana, who passed away on March 7, 2017 at the age of 73; and

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WHEREAS, Deacon Summerville contributed a great deal to the Champaign-Urbana community over his 50 years in the area; and

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WHEREAS, Deacon Summerville had an overwhelming and abundant faith in Jesus Christ and was committed to sharing that faith with every life he touched; and

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WHEREAS, Deacon Summerville served as a minister of music and Sunday School teacher; he was an active member of the PACE/SWAT ministries at Canaan Baptist Church, conducting door-to-door evangelism throughout the community; and

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WHEREAS, Deacon Summerville had a profound love for music, and in particular, for sacred music; he worked to foster his love of music in primary, middle, secondary, and higher education throughout his community, including at Urbana High School, the University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign African American Studies, Canaan Baptist Church, Canaan Academy, St. Luke CME Church, and Hinds College in Hinds, Mississippi; he

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1 conducted countless music workshops throughout the country and  
2 abroad; and

3 WHEREAS, Although Deacon Summerville can never be  
4 replaced, continuing to follow his examples of love, service,  
5 joy, and encouragement will improve the lives of many of those  
6 in his community; and

7 WHEREAS, Deacon Summerville was preceded in death by his  
8 wife of 48 years, Valerian Summerville; and

9 WHEREAS, Deacon Summerville is survived by his children,  
10 Derrick (Roslyn) Arnett, Shandra Alexander, and William  
11 (Danielle) Moses; his grandchildren, Darius (Jazmine) Julian,  
12 Adrian Rochelle, Makeda Gabriel, Jaxon Allery, and Ezekiel  
13 Thomas; his great-granddaughter, Amiyah Amani; hundreds of  
14 former students from his teaching career; many godchildren; and  
15 a host of nieces, nephews, cousins, special friends, and  
16 students throughout the nation; therefore, be it

17 RESOLVED, BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE  
18 HUNDREDTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, that we  
19 mourn the passing of Deacon Willie T. Summerville, and extend  
20 our sincere condolences to his family, friends, and all who  
21 knew and loved him; and be it further

1           RESOLVED, That a suitable copy of this resolution be  
2 presented to the family of Deacon Summerville as an expression  
3 of our deepest sympathy.