



SR1896

LRB100 22566 MST 41464 r

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SENATE RESOLUTION

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WHEREAS, The members of the Illinois Senate are saddened to learn of the death of Donald L. Williams Sr., who passed away on July 9, 2018; and

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WHEREAS, Donald Williams was born to Kelly Augustus "Great Granddaddy Gruff" Williams and Nana Mamie on April 28, 1926, one of four children along with Ernest, Clifford, and Arlean; while in high school he played football, ran track, and played the violin; he won the science award and graduated in 1944; he graduated from Howard University in 1949 with a pharmacy degree; he married Mercedes Williams and they had five children; and

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WHEREAS, Donald Williams opened his first pharmacy in Pittsburgh; he relocated to Chicago and eventually joined the Berger Pharmacy in Maywood, which he and a partner purchased in 1963; and

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WHEREAS, Donald Williams sold his share of the pharmacy business and began his second career in the insurance industry as the only insurance company selling policies to people of color in Maywood; he married Ora Dee Peppers, one of the first black realtors to sell homes in Maywood; together they created Donora Realty and sold real estate and State Farm insurance;

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1 and

2 WHEREAS, In the 1980s, Donald Williams continued his
3 education at the Moody Bible Institute and at the Billy Graham
4 Center in Wheaton; he was ordained as minister at his home
5 church of Second Baptist; and

6 WHEREAS, Donald Williams was elected mayor of Maywood in
7 1991 and served one term; and

8 WHEREAS, Donald Williams served on the board for the First
9 National Bank and as president of the West Suburban Chapter of
10 the NAACP; and

11 WHEREAS, The Village of Maywood continues to be important
12 to the family of Donald Williams; his granddaughter, Dawn
13 Williams-Rone is president of the Maywood Park District Board,
14 continuing her grandfather's legacy of service to the Village;
15 therefore, be it

16 RESOLVED, BY THE SENATE OF THE ONE HUNDREDTH GENERAL
17 ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, that we mourn the passing of
18 Donald L. Williams Sr., and extend our sincere condolences to
19 the grandchildren he leaves behind, his friends, and all who
20 knew and loved him; and be it further

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