



HR0258

LRB101 11822 ALS 58722 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 Homer Gardner, who passed away on March 23, 2019; and

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WHEREAS, Homer Gardner was born in Tallahatchie County, Mississippi to the Reverend Daniel J. and Ollie Gardner on July 29, 1937; he committed to his faith at an early age; during his teen years, he joined the United States Army and completed his high school education in the Army Academy; in 1957, he moved to Chicago and joined Sun Rise Missionary Baptist Church; In June of 1965, he met Ida, and they married that December; his quest for knowledge led him to the Cosmopolitan School of Business, Illinois Institute of Technology, where he studied Metallurgy, and the LaSalle Extension University, where he studied law; he earned his master's degree in theology from the Carolina University of Theology; and

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WHEREAS, Homer Gardner built a career in the forging industry as a metallurgist; he held management roles at several companies, including Kropp Forge, Rockwell International, and Modern Steel; he retired in 2000; and

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WHEREAS, Homer Gardner actively served in the church; he held many roles, including Sunday school teacher, choir member

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1 and director, secretary, treasurer, and deacon; he was called
2 to the ministry in 1977 and was elected as Pastor of Sunrise in
3 August of 1978; he served until his retirement in 2016; and

4 WHEREAS, Homer Gardner's greatest pride was his family; he
5 enjoyed traveling with his wife and doting on his children and
6 grandchildren; he walked his grandchildren to school, attended
7 school programs and sporting events, and fully enjoyed life; he
8 will be remembered for his laugh, humor, and love for his
9 faith, family, friends, and church; and

10 WHEREAS, Homer Gardner was preceded in death by his
11 parents; and his siblings and siblings-in-law, Lewis (Fannie),
12 Judge (Annie), Danny Lewis (Amos), Edith Thomas, Odie Dawson,
13 Odis C. (Lessie), Rochella Griffin Slaughter, Genterry, Shiloh
14 (Eartha), and Eddie (Nanette); and

15 WHEREAS, Homer Gardner is survived by his wife of 53 years,
16 Ida; his daughters, Olivia (Pastor Anthony) Jones and Arrie
17 Gardner; his grandchildren, Brandon Jones, Walter Williams,
18 Quentin (Ke'Asia) Jones, Olivia Williams, Iyla Williams,
19 Samantha Jones, and Anthony Jones Jr.; his great-grandson,
20 Ayden Jones; his siblings, Charles (Gloria), Geraldean
21 (Eugene) Peavy, Lenon (Elsie), Vera (Charlie) Chapman, Annice
22 Young, Juanice Kanakaredes, and Dorothy Faye; his four
23 brothers-in-law; his nine sisters-in-law; his loving, kind,

1 thoughtful godchildren; his many nieces, nephews, cousins, and
2 friends; and his Sun Rise family; therefore, be it

3 RESOLVED, BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE
4 HUNDRED FIRST GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, that
5 we mourn the passing of Homer Gardner and extend our sincere
6 condolences to his family, friends, and all who knew and loved
7 him; and be it further

8 RESOLVED, That a suitable copy of this resolution be
9 presented to the family of Homer Gardner as an expression of
10 our deepest sympathy.