



SR0163

LRB101 11268 MST 56605 r

1

SENATE RESOLUTION

2

WHEREAS, The members of the Illinois Senate are saddened to learn of the death of Rev. Dr. Mary Climons Lacey of Waukegan, who passed away on February 13, 2019; and

3

4

5

WHEREAS, Mary Lacey grew up in Mississippi with nine siblings; she and her family formed the Cradle Roll Singers and toured the country performing gospel songs; she recorded her first song, If I Can Help Somebody, on the Hummingbird label when she was 19; she recorded numerous other songs and was written about in Ebony and Jet magazines; she held an annual concert at Shiloh Baptist Church, which First Lady Betty Ford attended in 1976; and

6

7

8

9

10

11

12

13

WHEREAS, Mary Lacey was a social activist and marched alongside the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.; and

14

15

WHEREAS, Mary Lacey married William, and they settled in Waukegan, where she worked at the Great Lakes Naval Station; and

16

17

18

WHEREAS, Mary Lacey was ordained as a pastor, and, in 1997, earned a Doctorate of Humanity from Trinity Seminary in Denver; she earned a certificate in social work and was a foster parent; she estimated that she had helped raise about 5,000

19

20

21

1 children over 32 years; and

2 WHEREAS, Mary Lacey founded Mary's Mission, a homeless  
3 shelter, in Waukegan in 1987; she started volunteering at the  
4 Lake County jail in 2002, where she would give motivational  
5 talks and pray with the inmates; she held an annual Christmas  
6 parade from her mission to the jail, where she and volunteers  
7 would pass out toys to the children of inmates, while also  
8 providing hams or turkeys to the families to enjoy at their  
9 holiday meals; and

10 WHEREAS, Mary Lacey was also a hat designer and beautician  
11 and made elegant hats for "church ladies", though she is best  
12 known as a spiritual person who spent her life helping others;  
13 and

14 WHEREAS, Mary Lacey was preceded in death by her husband,  
15 William; and

16 WHEREAS, Mary Lacey is survived by her son, William Jr.,  
17 and her grandchildren; therefore, be it

18 RESOLVED, BY THE SENATE OF THE ONE HUNDRED FIRST GENERAL  
19 ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, that we mourn the passing of  
20 Rev. Dr. Mary Climons Lacey and extend our sincere condolences  
21 to her family, friends, and all who knew and loved her; and be

1 it further

2 RESOLVED, That a suitable copy of this resolution be  
3 presented to the family of Mary Lacey as an expression of our  
4 deepest sympathy.