



1 HOUSE RESOLUTION

2 WHEREAS, The members of the House of Representatives of the
3 State of Illinois learned with regret of the death of Elbert
4 "Al" Coleman on Saturday, July 24, 2004; and

5 WHEREAS, Mr. Coleman was born on February 15, 1942, in
6 Memphis, Tennessee, to Susie and Nathaniel Coleman; he
7 completed his formal education in Memphis, Tennessee, and went
8 on to valiantly serve his country as a member of the U.S. Navy,
9 where he worked as an aircraft mechanic and was honorably
10 discharged; and

11 WHEREAS, Mr. Coleman moved to Chicago and started his
12 career with the railroad; he held the position of switchman
13 with the Old Milwaukee Line and later served as Yardmaster with
14 the Metra Line; until his death, he maintained his title as
15 Yardmaster and took great pride in those duties; he is
16 remembered as "The General"; and

17 WHEREAS, He met and married Ozella Jones in 1971; he was
18 very family-oriented and gave all of himself to his family; he
19 was an avid reader and knowledgeable on many issues; with his
20 many cameras, he enjoyed capturing memories of the good times
21 he shared and treasured with his family and friends; and

22 WHEREAS, The General was a man of political views which he
23 would willingly share with anyone at any time; he stood up for
24 the "little guy" and fought against injustice; he is remembered
25 as one-of-a-kind, with no equal; and

26 WHEREAS, The passing of Elbert "Al" Coleman has been deeply
27 felt by many, especially his wife, Ozella; his sons, Maurice,
28 Kenneth, Konota, and Jabari; his daughters, Keisha, Ashika, and
29 Kanika; his grandchildren, Shonari, Chloe, Brandon, Ayanna,
30 Alayah, and Germon; his brother, Lamon; his aunt, Ruby; and his

1 many other relatives and friends; therefore, be it

2 RESOLVED, BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE
3 NINETY-THIRD GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, that we
4 mourn the passing of Elbert "Al" Coleman, and we extend our
5 deepest sympathy to his family, friends, and all who knew and
6 loved him; and be it further

7 RESOLVED, That a suitable copy of this resolution be
8 presented to the family of Mr. Coleman as an expression of our
9 sincere condolences and respect for the great life that "The
10 General" lived.