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HOUSE RESOLUTION

WHEREAS, The members of the House of Representatives wish to congratulate the YMCA of Metropolitan Chicago on the occasion of the dedication of Fred C. Matthews III Senior Housing Center; and

WHEREAS, The building, dedicated on September 10, 2004, is named for the Association's Senior Vice President of Company Relations and is a tribute to Fred C. Matthews III's 38 years of service to the YMCA and Chicago; and

WHEREAS, The Fred C. Matthews III building will provide 60 accessible, affordable apartments for persons over 62 years of age; each apartment will consist of a living-dining room area, a bedroom with closets, a kitchen, and a private bath; all apartments will be fully accessible for persons with disabilities, and the first floor of each building will have meeting rooms with warming kitchens, a lounge area with an entertainment center, a craft room, a library, and a computer room with four computers; full-time social service coordinators will assist residents on site, and free YMCA membership will be provided to each resident; and

WHEREAS, Fred C. Matthews III began his YMCA career in 1966 in the JOBS Program (Job Opportunity through Better Skills); in 1971, at the age of 29, he became the youngest District Director in the history of YMCA of Metropolitan Chicago, with responsibility for 16 YMCA centers in the south district; he is a co-founder of West Side Future, YMCA, the Associations's infant mortality reduction initiative, which has contributed to dramatic decreases in infant mortality since its inception more than 20 years ago; he became Executive Director of the Duncan YMCA in 1985 and became Vice President and a member of the corporate staff of the YMCA of Metropolitan Chicago in 1990; and

1           WHEREAS, Mr. Matthews has been a long-time patron of the  
2 arts, and his work has led to the creation and growth of the  
3 first YMCA in the country dedicated to the performing arts,  
4 Duncan YMCA Chernin Center for the Arts; he also co-created the  
5 Chicago YMCA's Black and Hispanic Achievers Program to foster  
6 leadership and mentoring among area teens; and

7           WHEREAS, Mr. Matthews' involvement in the life of Chicago  
8 has stretched beyond the YMCA; in addition to his service as an  
9 assistant treasurer of the Illinois Arts Alliance's Board of  
10 Directors, he is a member of the Chicago Department of Human  
11 Services' Committee on Urban Opportunity Advisory Board, 100  
12 Black Men, Inc., The Chicago Urban League, the NAACP, Rainbow  
13 PUSH, and the Original Forty Club; he is also a trustee of  
14 Grant Memorial AME Church in Chicago and a member of the Grant  
15 Men's Club; he teaches Sunday school, and in 1999, he chaired  
16 the church's 85th Anniversary Celebration; his leadership as  
17 Secretary of Grant Memorial Housing and Economic Development  
18 Corporation and President of the Grant Village Corporation has  
19 led to the development of Grant Village, an 80-unit senior  
20 housing complex on South Drexel Boulevard, as well as the  
21 rehabilitation of 66 housing units in the community surrounding  
22 the church; and

23           WHEREAS, Mr. Matthews graduated from Southern University  
24 in 1962 with a B.A. in sociology; while there, he was  
25 commissioned as a Second Lieutenant in the United States Army  
26 and was listed in Who's Who Among Students in American Colleges  
27 and Universities; he served one year of his military duty in  
28 Korea and completed his military service as an Army Captain in  
29 1965; he is a lifetime member of the Southern University Alumni  
30 Association and Kappa Alpha Psi fraternity and is active in the  
31 Chicago chapter of the Southern University Alumni Association  
32 and the Chicago Alumni Chapter of Kappa Alpha Psi fraternity;  
33 and

1           WHEREAS, Mr. Matthews and his wife of 41 years, the former  
2 Roslyn Nix, have two daughters, Genease Dionne Matthews and  
3 Rhonda Matthews McMillan; they have one grandchild, Rayne Alexa  
4 McMillan; therefore, be it

5           RESOLVED, BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE  
6 NINETY-THIRD GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, that we  
7 congratulate the YMCA of Metropolitan Chicago on the occasion  
8 of the dedication of the Fred C. Matthews III Senior Housing  
9 Center, and we thank Mr. Matthews for his extensive work at the  
10 YMCA and in Chicago; and be it further

11           RESOLVED, That a suitable copy of this resolution be  
12 presented to the YMCA of Metropolitan Chicago and to Mr. Fred  
13 C. Matthews III.