



SR0639

LRB095 20722 KXB 49173 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 R. Eugene Pincham of Chicago, who passed away on April 3, 2008; and

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WHEREAS, R. Eugene Pincham was born in Chicago on June 28, 1925 and grew up in Alabama; he graduated from high school in 1942 and later attended LeMoyne College in Memphis; he transferred to Tennessee State University in 1944 and earned a bachelor's degree in political science in 1947; and

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WHEREAS, He married Alzata C. Henry in 1948 and enrolled in Northwestern University School of Law that same year; he worked his way through school by waiting on tables at the Palmer House Hotel and shining shoes; he earned his law degree in 1951; and

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WHEREAS, He practiced law for the next 25 years; he was a brilliant criminal defense lawyer and a hero in Chicago's black neighborhoods; and

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WHEREAS, R. Eugene Pincham built a law practice as a advocate of causes that few others would champion; and

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WHEREAS, His knowledge, savvy and one-of-a-kind oratory made him the stuff of legends in the Cook County courts; and

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1           WHEREAS, During closing arguments, people would fill the  
2 courtroom just to hear Mr. Pincham speak; and

3           WHEREAS, Even though a renowned barrister, he took the time  
4 to mentor young lawyers, both as a lawyer and later as a judge;  
5 and

6           WHEREAS, Many have said that Judge Pincham encouraged  
7 people to do `what was right rather than what was expedient;  
8 and

9           WHEREAS, He served as both a Cook County judge and Illinois  
10 Appellate Court justice; he became a Circuit Court judge in  
11 1976 and was assigned to the Criminal Division, where he served  
12 until 1984; he then became an Appellate Court justice and  
13 resigned in 1989; and

14           WHEREAS, He was a proud member of Kappa Alpha Psi  
15 Fraternity; and he was a member of Trinity United Church of  
16 Christ; and

17           WHEREAS, In 1989 he unsuccessfully sought the Democratic  
18 Party nomination for president of the Cook County Board of  
19 Commissioners; he was the nominee for mayor of Chicago in the  
20 Harold Washington Party in 1991; he lost the election but

1 carried 19 of the 50 city wards; and

2 WHEREAS, After his retirement, Judge Pincham continued to  
3 practice law; he also lectured at Harvard University,  
4 Northwestern, DePaul, Notre Dame, and the University of  
5 Chicago; he was a member of the American Civil Liberties Union  
6 and a lifetime member of the NAACP; and

7 WHEREAS, Judge Pincham is survived by his son, Robert  
8 Eugene Pincham Jr.; his daughter, Dr. Andrea Michelle  
9 Pincham-Benton; his son, James Frederick Pincham; and his three  
10 grandchildren; he was preceded in death by his wife; therefore,  
11 be it

12 RESOLVED, BY THE SENATE OF THE NINETY-FIFTH GENERAL  
13 ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, that we mourn, along with  
14 his family and friends, the passing of Judge R. Eugene Pincham;  
15 and be it further

16 RESOLVED, That a suitable copy of this resolution be  
17 presented to the family of R. Eugene Pincham as a symbol of our  
18 sympathy.