



HR0836

LRB096 18389 GRL 33766 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 Wesley South, who passed away on January 9, 2010; and

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WHEREAS, Wesley South was born on March 23, 1914, in Muskogee, Oklahoma; his parents were Dr. Elijah and Mayme South; and

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WHEREAS, Wesley South and his family moved to Chicago in 1924; he received his primary and secondary education in the Chicago Public School system and graduated from Englewood High School; and

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WHEREAS, Wesley South served his country with pride and distinction as a member of the U.S. Army for 2 years during World War II; after leaving the service, he enrolled at Northwestern University's Medill School of Journalism; and

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WHEREAS, In 1951, Wesley South was hired by The Chicago Defender; in December of 1951, he joined the editorial staff of the Johnson Publishing Company, where he worked for nearly 6 years; he also worked for the Chicago American and the Chicago Daily News; and

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1 WHEREAS, In 1961, while working as a columnist and doing
2 public relations work for the NAACP, Wesley South was
3 approached by a local radio executive, who asked Mr. South to
4 host his own show; in 1962, Leonard and Phil Chess of Chess
5 Records bought the station and changed the call letters to
6 WVON; 2 years later, Mr. South began his popular program,
7 Hotline; and

8 WHEREAS, During Hotline's 16-year run, Wesley South
9 interviewed such luminaries as Presidents John F. Kennedy and
10 Jimmy Carter, jazz great Duke Ellington, baseball pioneer
11 Jackie Robinson, and civil rights leaders Dr. Martin Luther
12 King, Jr., Malcolm X, and Medgar Evers; in 1979, he became a
13 part owner of WVON; and

14 WHEREAS, Wesley South was an active member of his
15 community, serving in various capacities with the NAACP, The
16 Chicago Urban League, and Operation Breadbasket; he also played
17 major roles in the political campaigns of Mayor Harold
18 Washington, Congressman Gus Savage, and former U.S. Senator
19 Carol Moseley Braun, as well as the elections of his daughter,
20 Leslie, to the Circuit Court of Cook County and the Illinois
21 Appellate Court; and

22 WHEREAS, Wesley South was preceded in death by his wife,
23 Mildred; and

1 WHEREAS, Wesley South is survived by his daughter, Leslie
2 South; his son-in-law, Arthur Jackson; and his grandson, Wesley
3 Jackson; therefore, be it

4 RESOLVED, BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE
5 NINETY-SIXTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, that we
6 mourn, along with his family and friends, the passing of Wesley
7 South; and be it further

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