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SENATE RESOLUTION

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WHEREAS, Illinois State Senator Iris Y. Martinez and the members of the Illinois Senate are saddened to learn of the death of Sandra Kay Williams-Young of Springfield, who passed away on June 12, 2010; and

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WHEREAS, Sandra Williams-Young was born on December 26, 1961, in Springfield; she was the daughter of Robert L. and Barbara J. Williams; and

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WHEREAS, Sandra Williams-Young graduated from Southeast High School in 1979; she earned her associate's degree at Lincoln Land Community College and her bachelor's degree in psychology at the University of Illinois-Springfield; she then earned her master's degree in public administration from the University of Illinois-Springfield, where she was inducted into the Phi Beta Kappa Honor Society; and

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WHEREAS, Sandra Williams-Young accepted the Lord early in life and was baptized into the Christian faith; she was a member of the Monroe Street Christian Church (MSCC) for most of her adult life and she remained an active member until the Lord called her home; she also served as a member of the MSCC Adult Praise Dancers and a member of the Usher Board at the church; every year, she loved to volunteer her time in the summer to

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1 serve as the senior high teacher at the church's Vacation Bible  
2 School; and

3 WHEREAS, Sandra Williams-Young was formerly employed at  
4 the Illinois Department of Health and Human Services for over  
5 29 years; and

6 WHEREAS, Sandra Williams-Young was very active in the  
7 performing arts; she performed in several local plays and also  
8 enjoyed performing dramatic readings at her church; while her  
9 favorite dramatic reading was "Ain't I a Woman" by Sojourner  
10 Truth, she also enjoyed and performed the works of Langston  
11 Hughes; and

12 WHEREAS, Sandra Williams-Young was a committed volunteer  
13 and mentor at George Washington Middle School, where she formed  
14 lasting friendships with at-risk female students as she  
15 challenged them to strive for greatness; after being diagnosed  
16 with breast cancer, she became a self-appointed advocate in the  
17 African-American community and encouraged women of color to be  
18 tested for breast cancer; and

19 WHEREAS, Sandra Williams-Young was preceded in death by her  
20 father and her husband, Lloyd "Chris" Young, Sr.; and

21 WHEREAS, Sandra Williams-Young is survived by her sons,

1 Rickey and Christopher; her grandson, Christian, whom she  
2 raised as a son; her grandchildren, Natasha Handy, Prince  
3 Rickey Smith, and Gabriel Smith; her mother; her brothers,  
4 Aundra (Ann), Steven (Martha), and Robert L. (Sherry); her  
5 sisters, Debra, Letitia, and Sharon (Justin) Williams; her  
6 special friend, Delbert Marshall; and her many aunts, uncles,  
7 nieces, nephews, cousins, and friends; she also had an extra  
8 special relationship with Reknecka Ashcraft McTye and Jason  
9 Holman, whom she considered her own special children;  
10 therefore, be it

11 RESOLVED, BY THE SENATE OF THE NINETY-SIXTH GENERAL  
12 ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, that we mourn, along with  
13 her family and friends, the passing of Sandra Kay  
14 Williams-Young; and be it further

15 RESOLVED, That a suitable copy of this resolution be  
16 presented to the family of Sandra Williams-Young as an  
17 expression of our sympathy.