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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 the "Queen of Gospel" Dr. Albertina Walker of Chicago, who passed away on October 8, 2010; and

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WHEREAS, She was born in Chicago in 1929; at the age of 4 she began singing in the children's choir at West Point Baptist Church; and

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WHEREAS, At the age of 22 she formed her own gospel group, Caravans, at the urging of gospel singer Mahalia Jackson; their many songs included: "*Sweeping Through the City*", "*Mary Don't You Weep*", and "*Lord Keep Me Day By Day*"; and

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WHEREAS, After a successful career with the Caravans she embarked on a solo career that included the release of songs such as "*I've Got A Feeling Everything Will Be Alright*", "*Jesus Will Fix It*", "*Please Be Patient With Me*", and "*I Can Go To God In Prayer*"; and

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WHEREAS, Over the course of her life she received many awards, including Stellar Awards, Grammy Awards, and many others; she sang for presidents, world leaders, and others, as well as launching the careers of James Cleveland, Shirley Caesar, Inez Andrews, and many more gospel entertainers; and

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2           WHEREAS, In 1989 she started the Albertina Walker  
3           Scholarship Foundation, giving money and support to aspiring  
4           musicians, singers, and artists; and

5           WHEREAS, Albertina Walker is survived by many nieces and  
6           nephews; therefore, be it

7           RESOLVED, BY THE SENATE OF THE NINETY-SIXTH GENERAL  
8           ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, that we mourn, along with  
9           her family, friends, fans, and the many people she influenced  
10          over the years with her music, the passing of Albertina Walker;  
11          and be it further

12          RESOLVED, That a suitable copy of this resolution be  
13          presented to the family of Albertina Walker as a symbol of our  
14          sincere sympathy.