



HR0834

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HOUSE RESOLUTION

2 WHEREAS, The members of the Illinois House of
3 Representatives are saddened to learn of the death of Sara
4 Spurlark of Chicago, who passed away on February 12, 2012; and

5 WHEREAS, Sara Spurlark grew up in Winston-Salem, North
6 Carolina, and Knoxville, Tennessee; after attending Knoxville
7 College in Tennessee for 2 years, she transferred to Hampton
8 University in Virginia, where she graduated in 1944; she
9 subsequently earned her master's degree from the University of
10 Connecticut at Storrs in 1947 and attended the University of
11 Chicago to pursue a doctoral degree in biochemistry; and

12 WHEREAS, Sara Spurlark married her loving husband, Royal E.
13 Spurlark Jr., in 1949; and

14 WHEREAS, Sara Spurlark had a long and distinguished career
15 as an educator; she began her career as a chemistry teacher
16 with CPS in 1955; she later served as the head of Kelly High
17 School's science department; around 1966, she relocated to the
18 new Kenwood High School (now Kenwood Academy), where she served
19 as a biology teacher before becoming assistant principal a few
20 years later; In the late 1970s, she became the principal of Ray
21 Elementary School, where she served until her retirement from
22 CPS in 1990; and

1 WHEREAS, Following her retirement from CPS, Sara Spurlark
2 became a founding member and associate director of the
3 University of Chicago's Center for Urban School Improvement;
4 she continued in this capacity until her retirement in 2005;
5 during her tenure at the Center, she played a key role in the
6 university's charter school program; and

7 WHEREAS, Sara Spurlark was involved with numerous civic and
8 religious organizations, including the McCormick Theological
9 Seminary, the South East Chicago Commission, and the Chicago
10 School Finance Authority; and

11 WHEREAS, Sara Spurlark was preceded in death by her
12 husband, Royal E. Spurlark, Jr.; her son, Royal E. Spurlark,
13 III; her parents, Hardy and Estelle Liston; and her 3 sisters
14 and 2 brothers; and

15 WHEREAS, Sara Spurlark is survived by her daughters, Susan
16 and Aurelia; her daughter-in-law, Miriam Hernandez-Spurlark;
17 her brothers, Hardy Liston Jr. and David Liston; and her
18 grandchildren and great-grandchildren, Maxwell L. Kennedy,
19 Royal E. Spurlark, IV, John E. Kennedy, Alicia E. Spurlark,
20 Makayla L. Kennedy, and Royal E. Spurlark, V; therefore, be it

21 RESOLVED, BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE

1 NINETY-SEVENTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, that
2 we mourn, along with her family and friends, the passing of
3 Sara Spurlark; and be it further

4 RESOLVED, That a suitable copy of this resolution be
5 presented to the family of Sara Spurlark as an expression of
6 our sympathy.