



HR1159

LRB097 21871 GRL 70565 r

1 HOUSE RESOLUTION

2 WHEREAS, The members of the Illinois House of  
3 Representatives are saddened to learn of the death of Dezo  
4 McGill, who passed away on May 27, 2012; and

5 WHEREAS, Dezo McGill was born on April 23, 1933, in Oktaha,  
6 Oklahoma, to James Reed and Uraha Belle Triggs; and

7 WHEREAS, Dezo McGill served with distinction as a member of  
8 the United States Army and received an honorable discharge on  
9 January 31, 1962; and

10 WHEREAS, Following his service in the Army, Dezo McGill  
11 continued his education at Langston University, where he earned  
12 his bachelor's degree in biology, and at Wichita State  
13 University, where he earned his master's degree; and

14 WHEREAS, Dezo McGill served as a high school teacher for  
15 many years; he was well known for encouraging his students to  
16 stretch themselves to strive to achieve their educational  
17 goals; and

18 WHEREAS, Dezo McGill accepted his call to ministry and  
19 began his journey as one of God's choice servants; from 1963 to  
20 1967, he served as Assistant to the Pastor at Tabernacle

1 Baptist Church; in 1969, he was called to serve as Pastor of  
2 the New Zion Baptist Church in Wichita, Kansas; in August of  
3 1973, he accepted the call to serve as the Pastor of Main  
4 Street Baptist Church in Aurora; as Pastor of Main Street  
5 Baptist, he was actively involved in his community, serving  
6 locally as Chaplain for the Aurora Police Department and as a  
7 member of the Ministerial Alliance; he retired after 32 years  
8 of faithful service to Main Baptist Church; and

9 WHEREAS, Dezo McGill had a heart for missions and was  
10 committed to the continual building of God's Kingdom, at home  
11 and abroad; in 1981, he took his first journey to Zimbabwe;  
12 through the encouragement and inspiration of the Main Baptist  
13 membership, he journeyed to Africa 28 times; in 1983, he  
14 founded the Africa Crusade Ministry, Inc., and invited other  
15 ministers and lay persons to join the Crusade; during one of  
16 the Crusade trips, he determined that the ministry needed to  
17 expand to offer more tangible assistance; he subsequently  
18 formed the African American Outreach Mission to further their  
19 missionary efforts; he reached out to churches and communities  
20 throughout the country to collect Bibles, clothing, medical  
21 equipment, medicines, computer equipment, school supplies, and  
22 other items; and

23 WHEREAS, Dezo McGill served as Vice President of Ecumenical  
24 Affairs of the National Baptist State Convention, Moderator and

1 2nd Vice Moderator of the Northwood River District Association,  
2 2nd Vice President of the Illinois Missionary Baptist State  
3 Convention, President of the Illinois State Congress, Dean of  
4 Practical Studies of the National Sunday School and B.T.U.  
5 Congress, and leader of the Ministers Lecture Series with the  
6 National Congress; he was also ordained as an Honorary Anglican  
7 Priest in Harare, Zimbabwe, an honor he cherished deeply; and

8 WHEREAS, Dezo McGill is survived by his wife of 39 years,  
9 Esther C. McGill; his children, James McGill, Gary Polk, Portia  
10 (Richard) Prather, Dezo (Donna) McGill, Jr., Brenda Johnson,  
11 Ronnie (Jane) McGill, Cathryn McGill, Charles Dixon, and  
12 Andriette McGill; his sisters, Dorothy Johnson, Charlene  
13 Carter, Gwendolyn Breedlove, and Yvonne Caldwell; his  
14 brothers, Alvin Curtis, Leonard Triggs, and Al Triggs; his  
15 grandchildren, Brian Polk, Aspen Polk, Darvell Polk, Raymond  
16 (Shontel) Griffin, Titus Prather, Antigone (Matt) Rappord,  
17 Darrius Johnson, Lindsey Johnson, Joshua McGill, DJ McGill,  
18 Riley McGill, Nashae (Adam) Morin, Caleb Dixon, and Tashia  
19 Woodridge; his great-grandchildren, Titus L. Prather, Kali  
20 McGowan, William Griffin, and Aaliyah Griffin; and his many  
21 other relatives, friends, and the entire congregation of his  
22 church; therefore, be it

23 RESOLVED, BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE  
24 NINETY-SEVENTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, that

1 we mourn, along with his family and friends, the passing of  
2 Dezo McGill; and be it further

3       RESOLVED, That a suitable copy of this resolution be  
4 presented to the family of Dezo McGill as an expression of our  
5 sympathy.