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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 Reverend Tom C. "TC" Sturdivant, who passed away on November 25, 2012; and

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WHEREAS, Rev. Tom Sturdivant was born on March 25, 1936, in York, Alabama; his parents were Roy and Jessie B. (Nixon) Sturdivant; he married Callie Mae Sturdivant, who preceded him in death; he later married Katie Lee Elston on March 27, 2004; and

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WHEREAS, Before he became a minister, Rev. Tom Sturdivant was a civil rights freedom fighter in Alabama who walked hand-in-hand with the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King and other freedom fighters in Selma, Alabama; he personally knew James Chaney, Andrew Goodman, and Michael Schwerner, who were among those who died in the movement; he also was known to house civil rights activists at his home or other real estate he owned; and

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WHEREAS, Rev. Tom Sturdivant retired from the railroad industry in 1993 after many years of service; he served as pastor of the Mount Zion Baptist Church in Galesburg, commuting from Peoria to Galesburg for more than 21 years; after the death of the Rev. John L. Gordon and when the Rev. Sturdivant's

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1 work was done in Galesburg, the Lord led him back to Peoria to  
2 pastor St. Luke M.B. Church; in the meantime, he graduated from  
3 the Illinois Baptist College in Galesburg; and

4 WHEREAS, Rev. Tom Sturdivant was a member of Grace Baptist  
5 Church, under the leadership of the Rev. Jeffery Ivory Sr.; he  
6 became a senior pastor of St. Luke M.B. Church and faithfully  
7 served there for more than 19 years until his passing; over the  
8 years, he also served with the Baptist General State of  
9 Churches as the unit district moderator and as president of the  
10 Baptist Minister Alliance and the Praise Team at the State  
11 Baptist General Conventions; and

12 WHEREAS, Rev. Tom Sturdivant is survived by his loving and  
13 devoted wife of 8 years, Katie Sturdivant; his sons, Willie J.  
14 McCallum, Thomas R. (Sheila) Sturdivant, Charles (Vera) McVay,  
15 and Chad Dunlop; his daughters, Jeannette (Quintin)  
16 Sturdivant-Marshall, Francis D. Sturdivant, Robin Otterstrom,  
17 Yvette Sturdivant, Latisha Sturdivant, and Joyce McVay; his  
18 brothers, Danny B. (Penny) Sturdivant, Floyd (Gladys)  
19 Sturdivant, and William O. (Deborah) Sturdivant; his sisters,  
20 Rosie Ruffin and Melvie Thomas; his 35 grandchildren; his many  
21 great-grandchildren and great-great-grandchildren; his many  
22 other relatives; and the members of the Baptist General State  
23 Churches and the Peoria community; therefore, be it

1           RESOLVED, BY THE SENATE OF THE NINETY-SEVENTH GENERAL  
2 ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, that we mourn, along with  
3 his family and friends, the passing of Reverend Tom C. "TC"  
4 Sturdivant; and be it further

5           RESOLVED, That a suitable copy of this resolution be  
6 presented to the family of Rev. Tom Sturdivant as an expression  
7 of our sympathy.