



HR0846

LRB098 20265 MST 55656 r

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HOUSE RESOLUTION

2 WHEREAS, State Representative Monique D. Davis and the
3 Illinois House of Representatives are pleased to congratulate
4 civil rights trailblazer Thomas N. Todd on being honored by
5 Chicago State University; and

6 WHEREAS, Thomas Todd was one of the first African-American
7 United States attorneys hired in Chicago in 1967; he
8 established the nations's first Office of Civil Rights within
9 the U.S. Attorney's office in 1969; and

10 WHEREAS, Thomas Todd made history in 1968 by filing the
11 first criminal case against a Chicago Police officer for
12 deprivation of an individual's civil rights, and that same
13 year, he helped establish the Afro-American Patrolman's
14 League; and

15 WHEREAS, Thomas Todd was the first full-time
16 African-American professor hired at Northwestern University's
17 School of Law, where he taught from 1970-1974; he also served
18 as President of the Chicago Chapter of the Southern Christian
19 Leadership Conference in 1971; and

20 WHEREAS, Thomas Todd co-founded Operation PUSH in 1971 and
21 created its name - People United to Serve Humanity; he served

1 as its first Vice-President under President Jesse Jackson and
2 was acting President from 1983-1984; and

3 WHEREAS, Thomas Todd was the legal advisor behind the
4 historic campaigns of key African-American Chicago
5 politicians, from U.S. Rep. Ralph Metcalfe to the late Chicago
6 Mayor Harold Washington; and

7 WHEREAS, Thomas Todd was born in Demopolis, Alabama on
8 September 24, 1938; he graduated from high school at age 15,
9 received his bachelor's degree in political science from
10 Southern University in Baton Rouge, Louisiana in 1959, and
11 graduated magna cum laude from law school in 1963; he then
12 entered the United States Army to serve as a Judge Advocate
13 General Corp Officer from 1964-1967; he and his wife of 47
14 years, Janis, have 2 daughters; and

15 WHEREAS, Thomas Todd was the keynote speaker at a Chicago
16 State University ceremony celebrating his donation of an
17 extensive collection of documents and memorabilia to the school
18 that spans his 50 years as a civil rights trailblazer;
19 therefore, be it

20 RESOLVED, BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE
21 NINETY-EIGHTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, that
22 we congratulate Thomas N. Todd on being honored by Chicago

1 State University for his career in the advancement of civil
2 rights and wish him the best in all his future endeavors; and
3 be it further

4 RESOLVED, That a suitable copy of this resolution be
5 presented to Thomas Todd as an expression of our esteem and
6 respect.