



HR1064

LRB098 21147 MST 59015 r

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HOUSE RESOLUTION

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WHEREAS, The members of the Illinois House of Representatives wish to honor the life of Pastor Wallace Wyatt Sykes of Second Baptist Church; and

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WHEREAS, Pastor Sykes was born in Starksville, Mississippi on December 21, 1923 to the Reverend P.K. and Parkay Marie Sykes; and

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WHEREAS, Pastor Sykes moved to Maywood in 1943 and began serving at Second Baptist Church as deacon, trustee, superintendent of the Sunday church school, director of the Baptist Training Union, director of the Shepherd Boys, and financial secretary of the church for 12 years; he also sang with the Gospel Chorus and The Sanctuary Choir; in 1957, while serving at Second Baptist Church and studying at the Chicago Baptist Institute, he entered the ministry and was ordained in 1961; and

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WHEREAS, Pastor Sykes is a graduate of Crane Junior College in Chicago, Chicago Teachers College, the Chicago Baptist Institute, Elmhurst College, and holds an Honorary Doctor of Divinity Degree conferred upon him by the Board of Trustees of the Easonian Baptist Theological Seminary in Birmingham, Alabama in 1965; he has done postgraduate studies at

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1 Northeastern Illinois University and at the Northern Baptist
2 Theological Seminary in Lombard; and

3 WHEREAS, Second Baptist Church has accomplished a great
4 deal under the direction and leadership of Pastor Sykes
5 including: the establishment of The Hayden Memorial
6 Educational Fund to give scholarships and assistance to boys
7 and girls seeking to develop their potential go on to higher
8 education, and Pam's Pennies, a fund-raising venture, created
9 to serve as a companion to the Hayden Memorial Educational
10 Fund; since both of these programs have been initiated, several
11 hundred students have gone to college and been encouraged in
12 both grade school and high school; in addition, The Maple Tree
13 Child Learning Center was established for daycare and the
14 development of children, and The Maple Tree Music Center was
15 established to aid in the development of children and people
16 interested in music; in January of 1997, he formed the Girl and
17 Boy Scout Troops for neighboring children, and in May of 1999,
18 the Maple Tree Child Learning Center upgraded its services by
19 adding a Kindergarten class and after school and senior
20 programs; he also established a computer literacy program and
21 lab for students within the after school program and purchased
22 a new van for members needing assistance who are in
23 wheelchairs; in February of 2004, an additional program was
24 instituted, The Children's Worship Hour; additional programs
25 developed by the him include the establishment of The Talent

1 and Tutoring Center, the School of Religion for biblical
2 instruction and guidance, and The Second Community Crisis
3 Center for individuals who have been displaced from housing; he
4 also established the Food Ministry and Produce Mobile Ministry
5 to feed the hungry; and

6 WHEREAS, Since 1961, property was purchased and a parking
7 lot developed; in 1975, a new edifice with a sanctuary to
8 accommodate the seating of 1200, 35 classrooms for teaching, a
9 social hall, and music lab to accommodate 10 students and a
10 teacher was erected with parking; under Pastor Sykes's
11 leadership, the congregation also redeemed the property of Mrs.
12 Maggie Walker, then 101 years old, in 1971; now 3 parking lots
13 are available and used; in 2001, the church purchased
14 additional property and named it The Assembly Children's
15 Ministry of Second Baptist; in 2002, members encouraged the
16 pastor to install an elevator for the senior members and the
17 handicapped; and

18 WHEREAS, Pastor Sykes's additional pastoral duties
19 include: visiting the sick and shut-in, providing food for
20 those in need, funeral and burial services, marriage
21 counseling, weddings, supervising of church activities, church
22 administration, providing shelter and clothing for the needy,
23 providing bus service for those needing transportation, and
24 aiding students in school; and

1 WHEREAS, Pastor Sykes's family includes - his children,
2 Patricia Jean, Dr. Bobby Wyatt (professor, University of New
3 Mexico), George Anthony, Sherry Alysine (graduate, West
4 Point), Robert Daniel (graduate, Georgetown University), and
5 Brett Steward (graduate, Massachusetts Institute of
6 Technology); grandchildren, Winston, Dina, Hasan, Deidre,
7 Rhiannon Marie, Geovantie, Gavin, Ariel, and Jonathan Nigel; 3
8 great-grandchildren, Hillery, Morgan, and Brandi Nichole; 3
9 daughters-in-laws, Judy, Amy, and Diane and one son-in-law,
10 Terrace; from his mother, the late Mrs. Parkay Marie Sykes, he
11 received unending support and faithful guidance until the very
12 end of her life; and

13 WHEREAS, Pastor Sykes is still moving forward as a pillar
14 in the community, with ideas and plans for the future; this
15 year marks the 52th year of him being the Pastor of The Second
16 Baptist Church; on March 30, 2007, the 7th Congressional
17 District of Illinois, under the leadership of Congressman Danny
18 K. Davis, named the Maywood Post Office in his honor; and

19 WHEREAS, A celebration was held in honor of Pastor Sykes on
20 April 25, 2014 at Second Baptist Church in recognition of his
21 life and service; therefore, be it

22 RESOLVED, BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE

1 NINETY-EIGHTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, that
2 we honor the life of Pastor Wallace Wyatt Sykes, and wish him
3 the best in all his future endeavors; and be it further

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