



SR0476

LRB098 12855 MST 47347 r

1 SENATE RESOLUTION

2 WHEREAS, The members of the Illinois Senate are saddened to
3 learn of the death of Birdia Ruth (Woods) Hawthorne of Alton,
4 who passed away on July 6, 2013; and

5 WHEREAS, Ruth Hawthorne was born on September 9, 1947, in
6 Carthage, Mississippi, to Lovie (Tate) and Earnest Woods; she
7 was raised in Alton and graduated from Alton Senior High School
8 and Southern Illinois University at Edwardsville; she married
9 Leonard E. Hawthorne on August 7, 1971; and

10 WHEREAS, Ruth Hawthorne loved literature and taught
11 English and reading at Central Junior High School, West Middle
12 School, and East Middle School in Alton; she retired in May
13 2003 after 34 years as a teacher; and

14 WHEREAS, Ruth Hawthorne was a dedicated volunteer and
15 worked with several organizations in the Alton community,
16 including the National Council of Negro Women, Inc., the Delta
17 Kappa Gamma Society, the Madison County Urban League Guild, the
18 National Association for the Advancement of Colored People Back
19 to School Committee, the Charmaine Chapman Society of the
20 United Way of Greater Saint Louis, the Illinois Retired
21 Teachers Association, Madison County Unit 1, the Oasis Shelter
22 for Women and Children, and the Women's History Coalition; and

1 WHEREAS, Ruth Hawthorne was an active member of Pilgrim
2 Rest Missionary Baptist Church in Alton, where she served with
3 the usher, scholarship, beautification, and kitchen
4 ministries; and

5 WHEREAS, Ruth Hawthorne was preceded in death by her
6 father, Earnest; her maternal grandparents, Will and Amanda
7 Tate; and her paternal grandparents, Jimmy and Cora Woods; and

8 WHEREAS, Ruth Hawthorne is survived by her husband,
9 Leonard; her daughter, Melia Lynn Hawthorne (fiance Kevin
10 Rice); her son, Antoine L. (Rebecca) Lawrence; her mother,
11 Lovie; her sister, Dr. Wanda Earnestine Woods Everage; her
12 brother, Gary D. Woods; her nephews and niece, Carlton, Robert,
13 Rylee, and Moory; and a host of extended family members;
14 therefore, be it

15 RESOLVED, BY THE SENATE OF THE NINETY-EIGHTH GENERAL
16 ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, that we mourn the passing of
17 Birdia Ruth (Woods) Hawthorne, and extend our sincere
18 condolences to her family, friends, and all who knew and loved
19 her; and be it further

20 RESOLVED, That a suitable copy of this resolution be
21 presented to the family of Ruth Hawthorne as an expression of

1 our deepest sympathy.