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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 Ernest Jones, who passed away on September 2, 2015; and

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WHEREAS, Ernest Jones was born on June 15, 1928 in Poplar Grove, Arkansas; his parents were Paul and Elenora Jones; after his mother's passing, he was raised by his stepmother, Olivia Jones; and

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WHEREAS, In 1949, Ernest Jones and his family left Arkansas for Cairo; while living in Cairo he met the love of his life, Ernestine Baker, whom he married on January 26, 1951; and

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WHEREAS, In 1966, Ernest Jones moved to Maywood to make a better life for his children after the passing of his beloved wife; after 4 years of hard work and perseverance, he drove to Cairo with his sister Pearl and returned with all 8 children, whom he raised with pride and love; and

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WHEREAS, Ernest Jones put effort and dignity into his work as a machine operator for Stanadyne, but had a true passion for his work training and breaking show horses; his love for animals continued into his old age; some of his granddaughters can even remember him taking the time to feed stray cats around

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1 his apartment; and

2 WHEREAS, Ernest Jones was a lover of politics and a staunch  
3 Democrat; he actively served as Campaign Manager for the first  
4 African-American president-elect of Cook County and his first  
5 cousin, John H. Stroger; and

6 WHEREAS, Ernest Jones had strong faith in God and received  
7 Christ and religion at an early age while in Cairo; after  
8 moving to Maywood, he continued his fellowship by joining the  
9 Garden of Prayer Church of Broadview under the leadership of  
10 Pastor Johnnie Haynie; he served as a Deacon and was a  
11 faithfully active member of the church; and

12 WHEREAS, Ernest Jones was preceded in death by his wife,  
13 Ernestine; a daughter, Linda Jo; 2 sons, Terry and Gregory; 2  
14 grandsons, Gary Lee, Jr. and Ernest Keys; 2 brothers, Joseph  
15 and Paul, Jr.; and 7 sisters, Buella Mae, Ruby, Pearl, Louise,  
16 Lois, Lena, and Roberta; and

17 WHEREAS, Ernest Jones is survived by 4 sons, Wendell,  
18 Bruce, Vincent, and Christopher (Jackie); 3 daughters,  
19 Phyllis, Shirlene (Lemmie), and Wanda; 2 brothers, James  
20 (Connie) and Ronnie; 6 sisters, Vivian, Brenda, Barbara,  
21 Shirlene (Carl), and Linda Faye (Greg); 35 grandchildren; 46  
22 great-grandchildren; and his many nieces, nephews, cousins,

1 and friends; therefore, be it

2 RESOLVED, BY THE SENATE OF THE NINETY-NINTH GENERAL  
3 ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, that we, along with his  
4 family and friends, mourn the passing of Ernest Jones; and be  
5 it further

6 RESOLVED, That a suitable copy of this resolution be  
7 presented to the family of Ernest Jones as an expression of our  
8 sympathy.