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HOUSE RESOLUTION

2 WHEREAS, The members of the Illinois House of
3 Representatives are saddened to learn of the death of Dr.
4 Opear Ree (Cooley) Myles, who passed away on March 9, 2025; and

5 WHEREAS, Dr. Myles was born to Garfield Cooley Sr. and
6 Ivory Mae Cooley in Grenada, Mississippi on October 25, 1928;
7 she was the eldest of seven children; she attended the public
8 school system in Grenada; she later relocated to Chicago; she
9 married Evangelist Mark Myles Sr. in 1953; and

10 WHEREAS, Dr. Myles maintained a successful career in the
11 Chicago Public School (CPS) system for over 18 years; during
12 her tenure, she positively impacted the minds of the students,
13 staff, and faculty members that she frequently encountered;
14 and

15 WHEREAS, Dr. Myles supported her husband in his
16 establishment of the Van Buren Street Church of Christ on
17 Chicago's West Side in 1959, which is known today as the Far
18 West Church of Christ; she faithfully served the Far West
19 congregation as a teacher of Sunday school and the Ladies'
20 Bible Class, a mentor for the youth and adults, and a spiritual
21 guidance counselor until she was unable to attend; she had the
22 opportunity of seeing three of her sons become evangelists

1 themselves, Evangelists Mark Myles Jr. and Luke Myles Sr. of
2 Far West Church of Christ and Evangelist Matthew Myles of
3 Central Pointe Church of Christ in Bloomington, where he
4 serves as senior minister; and

5 WHEREAS, Dr. Myles was a member of the National Dinner Day
6 and the Penny Pageant Committees of the Chicago area Churches
7 of Christ; she was also a member of the Bowser Association of
8 Women; and

9 WHEREAS, Dr. Myles received an Honorary Doctorate of
10 Humane Letters for her commitment to faith and Christian
11 education from Dr. Jack Evans Sr., then-president of
12 Southwestern Christian College, in 2012; she was featured as
13 one of the three eldest widows of gospel preachers of the
14 African American Churches of Christ in the April 2019
15 Lectureship Edition of the Christian Courier; and

16 WHEREAS, Dr. Myles, who was regarded as the "Senior First
17 Lady of All Ministers' Wives in Chicago", a "Sister of the
18 Struggle", and a "Woman of God", served as a tremendous
19 influence to her family, her church, her community, the
20 Chicago area Churches of Christ, and the entire brotherhood;
21 and

22 WHEREAS, Dr. Myles was a beloved mother, grandmother, and

1 godmother who will be remembered for her wisdom, her devotion,
2 and her contributions to her faith; therefore, be it

3 RESOLVED, BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE
4 HUNDRED FOURTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, that
5 we mourn the passing of Dr. Opear Ree (Cooley) Myles and extend
6 our sincere condolences to her family, friends, and all who
7 knew and loved her; and be it further

8 RESOLVED, That a suitable copy of this resolution be
9 presented to the family of Dr. Myles as an expression of our
10 deepest sympathy.