



HR0419

LRB104 14101 ECR 27233 r

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HOUSE RESOLUTION

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WHEREAS, The members of the Illinois House of Representatives are saddened to learn of the death of Cleveland "Rooster" Thomas Jr. of Peoria, who passed away on June 7, 2025; and

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WHEREAS, Cleveland Thomas was born to Reverend Dr. Cleveland Thomas Sr. and Cornelia "Connie" (Jackson) Burnside in Peoria on September 17, 1976; he graduated from Peoria Central High School in 1995; and

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WHEREAS, Cleveland Thomas committed to his faith at an early age, and he was a lifelong member of New Morning Star M. B. Church; and

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WHEREAS, Cleveland Thomas was a talented chef and an active outdoorsman; he loved camping, fishing, grilling, cooking, swimming, and playing sports with his sons; and

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WHEREAS, Cleveland Thomas had a vibrant and inviting personality, and he always provided a good laugh to those around him; and

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WHEREAS, Cleveland Thomas was preceded in death by his maternal grandparents, Rev. Cornelius and Bessie Jackson; his

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1 paternal grandparents, Genral Price Thomas Sr. and Louise  
2 Richardson; and his step-grandfather, George Richardson Sr.;  
3 and

4 WHEREAS, Cleveland Thomas is survived by his father,  
5 Cleveland Thomas Sr.; his mother, Connie (the Rev. Jimmie)  
6 Burnside; his grandmother, Betty Hill; his children, Cierra  
7 Thomas, Cleveland "Trey" Thomas III, Cameron Thomas, and  
8 Caliyah Thomas; his siblings, Cornelius "Couri" Thomas, Joshua  
9 (Jewel) Williams, Jamar (Kei 'Erica) Thomas, and Clevia  
10 (Courtney) Morris; his grandchildren, Cari Thomas, Cashous  
11 Thomas, and Milan Thomas; his former wife and the mother of his  
12 sons, Ruthie Gatson; the mother of his daughter, Tenisha  
13 Carpenter; his former stepmother, Beverly Thomas; his Burnside  
14 family; his nieces and nephews; and a host of cousins, aunts,  
15 uncles, and friends; therefore, be it

16 RESOLVED, BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE  
17 HUNDRED FOURTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, that  
18 we mourn the passing of Brother Cleveland "Rooster" Thomas Jr.  
19 and extend our sincere condolences to his family, friends, and  
20 all who knew and loved him; and be it further

21 RESOLVED, That a suitable copy of this resolution be  
22 presented to the family of Cleveland Thomas as an expression  
23 of our deepest sympathy.