



HR0544

LRB104 16118 LAW 29443 r

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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 Bishop
4 Joseph Hosea Johnson of Peoria, who passed away on October 22,
5 2025; and

6 WHEREAS, Bishop Johnson was born to Charlie and Letha Mae
7 (Smith) Johnson in Benoit, Mississippi on July 24, 1935, and
8 he was one of 17 children born to his parents; he committed to
9 his faith at the age of 12; he relocated to Peoria at the age
10 of 18, where he met and married Annie Jo Hunter, and they had
11 two sons, Joel and Jonathan; he was called to a life of
12 ministry after joining New Morning Star Missionary Baptist
13 Church, leading him to study at Chicago Baptist Institute for
14 four years; he later continued his theological studies at the
15 University of Minnesota and Harvard College in California; and

16 WHEREAS, Bishop Johnson, following his return to Peoria,
17 served as a community worker for the State of Illinois
18 Department of Corrections, working with troubled youth and
19 becoming a probation officer after 18 months; he was promoted
20 to director of Juvenile Court Services three years later,
21 becoming the first African American to be appointed to that
22 position and serving for 37 years; and

1 WHEREAS, Bishop Johnson began his pastoral history as an
2 interim pastor with Star of Hope Full Gospel Church, formerly
3 Star of Hope Missionary Baptist Church, in October 1967; he
4 was ordained and installed as the permanent pastor in March
5 1968; at the same time, he also fulfilled other pastoral
6 duties at Peoria Christian Church and First United Methodist
7 Church; under his dynamic and life-changing leadership, Star
8 of Hope saw and hosted countless miracles of salvation,
9 healing, and deliverance; and

10 WHEREAS, Bishop Johnson served as a role model in the
11 community and a beacon from within the church; he participated
12 in the Cursillo Movement for 31 years, having the opportunity
13 to minister at 39 prison sites in Illinois; his ministry also
14 reached outside the United States for more than 40 years,
15 touching Liberia, Trinidad, and Tobago; and

16 WHEREAS, Bishop Johnson was an extremely loving and giving
17 man to countless individuals, serving as the foster father to
18 many young men and as a religious mentor to a multitude of
19 young men and women; he helped in sending 30 students to
20 college and purchased 12 homes and 33 cars for others; he also
21 donated funds to many local churches and community
22 organizations; and

23 WHEREAS, Bishop Johnson was preceded in death by his

1 parents; his son, Joel Johnson; his foster son, Ralph
2 Wrightner Stuckey; and 14 siblings; and

3 WHEREAS, Bishop Johnson is survived by his son, Jonathan
4 "John" Johnson Sr.; four children whom he loved as his own,
5 Roderick "Rod" Jordan, Daniel (Elizabeth) Billberry, Kenton
6 Young, and State Representative Jehan (Derrick) Gordon-Booth;
7 his siblings, Willie Johnson and Bernice Johnson; six
8 grandchildren; and a host of great-grandchildren, foster
9 children, nieces, and nephews; his extended family; his church
10 family; and his friends; therefore, be it

11 RESOLVED, BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE
12 HUNDRED FOURTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, that
13 we mourn the passing of Bishop Joseph Hosea Johnson and extend
14 our sincere condolences to his family, friends, and all who
15 knew and loved him; and be it further

16 RESOLVED, That a suitable copy of this resolution be
17 presented to the family of Bishop Johnson as an expression of
18 our deepest sympathy.