



HR0976

LRB104 22305 RMO 38744 r

1 HOUSE RESOLUTION

2 WHEREAS, The members of the Illinois House of
3 Representatives are saddened to learn of the death of Reverend
4 John L. Gibson Sr., who passed away on May 27, 2026; and

5 WHEREAS, Rev. Gibson, the son of the late Rev. Spencer and
6 Alberta Gibson, was born in Leland, Mississippi on July 21,
7 1939; he joined the ministry early in life, earning a degree in
8 Christian training from United Baptist Theology Seminary and a
9 Bachelor of Theology from the Illinois Missionary Baptist
10 Institute and Seminary; and

11 WHEREAS, Rev. Gibson, senior pastor of Rising Sun
12 Christian Church, led with vision, compassion, and unwavering
13 devotion for 48 years; he guided the organization, formerly
14 Rising Sun Baptist Church, through a renaming intended to
15 reflect greater religious inclusivity and the construction of
16 its new location in 1991; and

17 WHEREAS, Rev. Gibson was not only a powerful preacher but
18 also an anointed psalmist whose voice brought comfort,
19 strength, and healing during altar calls and at homegoing
20 services; his heartfelt rendering of the song "I Won't
21 Complain" became his signature testimony of faith and
22 perseverance, leaving an indelible mark on all who heard him;

1 and

2 WHEREAS, Rev. Gibson made an impact far beyond church
3 walls, acting as a mentor, counselor, and pillar of the
4 community; he championed youth empowerment, advocated for
5 social justice, and fostered healing across generations; and

6 WHEREAS, Rev. Gibson shared his musical gifts as a lead
7 singer and bass player for the Midwest Singers, a group known
8 for delivering powerful gospel music throughout the region;
9 his band recorded an album featuring a variety of songs,
10 including "Something On My Mind" and "He's All Right", under
11 Golden Voices Records in 1971; and

12 WHEREAS, Rev. Gibson's legacy will live on in the
13 countless lives he touched through prayer, preaching, and
14 song; and

15 WHEREAS, Rev. Gibson was preceded in death by his first
16 wife, Victory A. Jackson-Gibson; his sons, Kerry Cornell
17 Gibson, Kary Lester Gibson, and Kevin John Gibson; his
18 stepson, Bruce Cockfield Jr.; and his grandson, Jamanni M.
19 Gibson; and

20 WHEREAS, Rev. Gibson is survived by his wife, Gigi M.
21 Hamilton-Gibson; his children, Kimberly Parker and Kayretha

1 Parker; his stepchildren, Andriea A. Cockfield, Natasha R.
2 Cockfield, and Nicole (DeMarcus) McNeil; and many
3 grandchildren, great-grandchildren, extended family, church
4 members, and spiritual sons and daughters; therefore, be it

5 RESOLVED, BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE
6 HUNDRED FOURTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, that
7 we mourn the passing of Reverend John L. Gibson Sr. and extend
8 our sincere condolences to his family, friends, and all who
9 knew and loved him; and be it further

10 RESOLVED, That a suitable copy of this resolution be
11 presented to the family of Rev. Gibson as an expression of our
12 deepest sympathy.