



SR0391

LRB104 14785 LAW 27927 r

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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 Antoine Lamar Merrick of Chicago Heights, who passed away on July 31, 2025; and

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WHEREAS, Antoine Merrick was born in Mobile, Alabama on October 25, 1982; he was raised in Tampa, Florida; he graduated from Bloomingdale High School in Valrico, Florida, where he played football; he attended Florida A&M University; he married his wife, Kelli, in 2005; together, they built a life grounded in laughter, family, and love; and

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WHEREAS, Antoine Merrick began working with PepsiCo, becoming affectionately known as "the Pepsi man" in the community over the course of his eight-year career; after earning his Commercial Driver's License (CDL), he transitioned into a career in trucking, during which he loved taking his girls on the road with him; and

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WHEREAS, Antoine Merrick discovered coaching to be his life's work, first coaching at St. Agnes Catholic School in 2014; he coached girls and boys basketball and girls volleyball; he eventually took his passion to the Amateur Athletic Union (AAU) circuit, through which he coached the Lady MeanStreets and the Midwest Elite; he ultimately created

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1 a basketball program of his own, the Power Moves Elite (PME),
2 home of the PME Pumas; and

3 WHEREAS, Antoine Merrick's coaching career led him to
4 Marian Catholic High School, where he helped guide the Lady
5 Spartans for years, and finally to Rich Township High School,
6 where he served as head assistant coach of the girls varsity
7 basketball team and head coach of the girls flag football
8 team; over the course of his career, he became known for
9 believing in his players as well as protecting them, pushing
10 them, and celebrating their achievements; and

11 WHEREAS, Antoine Merrick, who leaves behind a legacy
12 spanning thousands of lives, courts, classrooms, and hearts,
13 will be remembered as a husband, a father, a brother, a son, a
14 friend, and a coach to many; and

15 WHEREAS, Antoine Merrick is survived by his wife, Kelli
16 Michel'e Merrick; his children, Aaliyah Lachel'e Merrick,
17 Kaili Michel'e Merrick, A'Joine Jacquay Jones, and Taquan
18 Jamiroquai Jones; his parents, Anthony Coleman and Christine
19 Merrick; his siblings, Ciara Merrick, D'Andre Merrick, Ashley
20 Coleman, Meghan Donald, and DaQualon Coleman; his
21 siblings-in-love, Michael and Mikal Muhammad, Michael June,
22 Demetrius Sewell, Trent Ware, and Kiel Redding; and a host of
23 aunts, uncles, cousins, Paddyfote Soldiers, athletes, and

1 friends; therefore, be it

2 RESOLVED, BY THE SENATE OF THE ONE HUNDRED FOURTH GENERAL
3 ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, that we mourn the passing of
4 Antoine Lamar Merrick and extend our sincere condolences to
5 his family, friends, and all who knew and loved him; and be it
6 further

7 RESOLVED, That a suitable copy of this resolution be
8 presented to the family of Antoine Merrick as an expression of
9 our deepest sympathy.