



SR0699

LRB104 21306 MST 36119 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 Warren Bell Cooper Jr., who passed away on January 10, 2026; and

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WHEREAS, Warren Cooper was born in Chicago to Warren Bell Cooper Sr. and Sylvia Irene Rimmer in 1953; he grew up working in his father's construction company and attended Arizona State University on a football scholarship, where he received his undergraduate degree in business administration and completed work towards a master's degree in the same subject; he attended the Saint Louis University School of Law from 1976 to 1978; and

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WHEREAS, Warren Cooper joined the Federal Aviation Administration as an air traffic control specialist at O'Hare International Airport in 1980, the first African American controller certified for O'Hare; he served as an air traffic control specialist from 1980 to 1983 and then as an air traffic control supervisor from 1983 to 1992, earning the FAA's Exceptional Employee Award; and

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WHEREAS, Warren Cooper founded ACCU-Lab Medical Testing, Inc. in 1993, establishing the nation's first and only wholly Black-owned forensic drug testing laboratory, which he built

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1 into a nationally respected provider of forensic drug testing
2 services and was the preferred provider of forensic drug
3 testing for the Cook County Adult Probation program for many
4 years; he operated ACCU-Lab until 2019 when he closed the
5 laboratory and devoted himself to his condominium association
6 board that he served since 2011 as a director and later as vice
7 president; his sharp business and financial acumen earned him
8 the nickname "Mr. 1700" because his oversight and careful
9 review of board-proposed purchases saved owners hundreds of
10 thousands of dollars; and

11 WHEREAS, Warren Cooper was a vocal crusader for educating
12 individuals on drug testing laws; he frequently consulted on
13 drug testing issues and co-authored a chapter on measuring
14 marijuana's effects that is included in the Colorado,
15 Michigan, and Wisconsin editions of Medicolegal Aspects of
16 Marijuana; he testified before Congress about federal
17 guidelines that effectively barred minority-owned laboratories
18 from obtaining SAMHSA certification required by DOT-regulated
19 industries; and

20 WHEREAS, Warren Cooper's interests covered a variety of
21 sports and civic activities; he was an early participant in
22 Real Men Cook, which began as a fundraiser for South Side YMCA;
23 some of his passions included horse racing, golf, travel,
24 baking, and remaining abreast of political goings; he counted

1 among his many friends a governor, state and county
2 legislators, an attorney general, a former president, and
3 business leaders across the country; he owned and raced two
4 horses, Ms. PreNup and Dunkerd I.D.; an avid golfer, he played
5 on courses across the Caribbean and was especially fond of St.
6 Kitts, where he had planned to retire; he scored a hole in one
7 in 2016; Las Vegas was a favorite domestic destination; he was
8 a long-time member of Destined to Win Christian Ministries
9 Church, where he served as treasurer; and

10 WHEREAS, Warren Cooper's public service earned
11 recognition, including selection to Who's Who in Executives
12 and Professionals, the Ground Breaker Award from the
13 Cosmopolitan Chamber of Commerce, a Minority Business
14 Opportunity Council Appreciation Award, and the Minority New
15 Innovative Business Award from Minority Enterprise
16 Development; his advocacy on behalf of consumers won him an
17 award for Distinguished Humanitarian Effort from the Midwest
18 Community Council; and

19 WHEREAS, Warren Cooper was preceded in death by his
20 parents; his stepfather, Henry Burks; and his two brothers,
21 Dr. Lavont Cooper and Ronald Burks; and

22 WHEREAS, Warren Cooper is survived by his wife, Vickie
23 Holmes Cooper; his mother, Sylvia Burks; his sister, Deborah

1 Cooper; Vickie's children, Nicholas (Latonya) Holmes, Clarence
2 (Bernadette) Pullins, and Naomi (Kenielle) Pullins, Grands
3 Nicholas Holmes Jr., Nashawn Holmes, Tacarl and Taliyah
4 Jackson, Amani and Amina Washington, and Brooklyn Pullins; his
5 uncle, Hubert Burks; his cousins, Gaidi, Beano, Phillip,
6 Peter, and Angela Burks, Marvin and Barry Robinson, David,
7 Laurie, and Karen Housma, Sheila and Robert Ciralsky, Joshua
8 and Jonah Cooper, and David and Daniel Ross; his
9 sisters-in-law, Darlette McAlpin, Jamelle (Kyron) St. Clair,
10 Tracye (Francis) Fofie, Nadia Campbell, and Linda Hudson;
11 Jerry (Angela) Fletcher Holmes Jr.; and his best friends and
12 golfing buddies, Nicholas Lammers, Al Randall, and Joe Banks;
13 therefore, be it

14 RESOLVED, BY THE SENATE OF THE ONE HUNDRED FOURTH GENERAL
15 ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, that we mourn the passing of
16 Warren Bell Cooper Jr. and extend our sincere condolences to
17 his family, friends, and all who knew and loved him; and be it
18 further

19 RESOLVED, That a suitable copy of this resolution be
20 presented to the family of Warren Cooper as a symbol of our
21 respect and esteem.