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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 Reverend Robert James Criss Sr. of Peoria, who passed away on March 26, 2019; and

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WHEREAS, Rev. Criss was born in Newport, Arkansas to Katie E. (Holiday) and Frank Criss on June 28, 1924; he served in the United States Army, where he preached overseas, including in Belgium and Germany until he was honorably discharged; he married Georgianna Doss; and

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WHEREAS, Rev. Criss worked at Caterpillar, Inc. until retiring in 1978; and

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WHEREAS, In 1965, Rev. Criss and Georgianna founded the Holy Tabernacle Church Of God In Christ in Peoria, where he served as pastor for 62 years and is considered the longest serving pastor in the Illinois C.O.G.I.C. diocese; Leroy Ave, on which his church is located, was named in his honor; and

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WHEREAS, Rev. Criss served as district superintendent of the Greater Bethlehem District of the Southern Illinois Ecclesiastical Jurisdiction; and

1 WHEREAS, Rev. Criss was preceded in death by his parents;
2 his spouses, Evangelist Georgianna Criss and Bertha Criss; two
3 infant daughters; and two brothers, Loyes Porter and Pastor
4 Leonard (A.C.) Criss; and

5 WHEREAS, Rev. Criss is survived by his children, Minister
6 Gary Lee (Crystal) Criss, Elder Larry Leroy (Dorothy) Criss,
7 Minister Robert James (Tina) Criss Jr., Missionary Linda Joy
8 (Earthel) Garner, Missionary Glenda Joyce (Eld. Michael)
9 Burrell, Robin Gale Criss-Williams, Bishop Timothy E. (Sherry)
10 Criss, and Georgianna Maria Criss; his special cousin, Anvilee
11 Robinson; 25 grandchildren; 75 great-grandchildren; many
12 great-great-grandchildren; numerous nieces, nephews, and
13 relatives; and his beloved Holy Tabernacle Church Family;
14 therefore, be it

15 RESOLVED, BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE
16 HUNDRED FIRST GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, that
17 we mourn the passing of Reverend Robert James Criss Sr. and
18 extend our sincere condolences to his family, friends, and all
19 who knew and loved him; and be it further

20 RESOLVED, That a suitable copy of this resolution be
21 presented to the family of Rev. Criss as an expression of our
22 deepest sympathy.