



HR0639

LRB101 16105 MST 65468 r

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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 Rev. Sylvester Smith Jr.; and

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WHEREAS, Rev. Smith was born in Nita Yuma, Mississippi to Leona Dantzler and Sylvester Smith Sr. on October 31, 1926; as a young man, he relocated to Chicago and settled in the Bronzeville neighborhood; he joined the 44th St. Baptist Church, where he served on the usher board; he married Naomi Hill in May of 1949 and served in the military from 1954 to 1956; and

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WHEREAS, Rev. Smith worked for the Smith Transfer Company (Huber & Huber) for 42 years; and

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WHEREAS, Rev. Smith graduated from Hope Bible College; in 1965, he was elected pastor of the newly-formed New Pisgah M.B. Church, which grew over the years to include successful day care and senior housing; he made educating children a priority and advocated for daycare and Headstart funding and legislation; he served as a mentor at Englewood High School and enjoyed being a positive role model and frequently gave the students motivational and inspiring talks; and

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1           WHEREAS, Rev. Smith was affectionately known as "Uncle  
2 Junior"; he loved to repair cars and attended the Greer  
3 Mechanic School; he was elected president of the Baptist  
4 Minister's Alliance of Chicago and Vicinity for two terms; he  
5 loved to attend the yearly National Baptist Conventions; he was  
6 a world traveler and visited Israel, Mexico, Puerto Rico, the  
7 Dominican Republic, the Bahamas and most major cities in the  
8 United States; he enjoyed taking cruises and was his children's  
9 biggest fan; and

10           WHEREAS, Rev. Smith was preceded in death by his wife of 62  
11 years, Naomi; and

12           WHEREAS, Rev. Smith is survived by his children, Stanley  
13 (Ruthie), Gloria, Denise, Pastor Wayne (Toi), and David  
14 (Rhonda); his sister, Ethel Wilson; his brother, Albert Smith;  
15 his grandchildren, Latreese, Bryan, Cha-chi, Chasty, and  
16 Adoria; and his great-grandchildren, Devon, Brayden, and  
17 Myles; therefore, be it

18           RESOLVED, BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE  
19 HUNDRED FIRST GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, that  
20 we mourn the passing of Rev. Sylvester Smith Jr. and extend our  
21 sincere condolences to his family, friends, and all who knew  
22 and loved him; and be it further

1           RESOLVED, That a suitable copy of this resolution be  
2 presented to the family of Rev. Smith as an expression of our  
3 deepest sympathy.