



HR0864

LRB101 21594 LAW 72524 r

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HOUSE RESOLUTION

2 WHEREAS, The members of the Illinois House of
3 Representatives are saddened to learn of the death of Conrad
4 Walter Worrill, Ph.D., who passed away on June 3, 2020; and

5 WHEREAS, Dr. Worrill was born in Pasadena, California to
6 Walter and Anna Bell Worrill on August 15, 1941; he moved to
7 Chicago at age nine; he was drafted into the U.S. Army in 1962,
8 and he was stationed in Okinawa, Japan; he returned to the U.S.
9 in 1963; he earned his Bachelor of Science in Applied
10 Behavioral Science from George Williams College in 1968; he
11 earned his Master of Arts in Social Service Administration from
12 the University of Chicago in 1971; he earned his doctorate in
13 Curriculum and Instruction from the University of
14 Wisconsin-Madison in 1973; he married Arlina Worrill; and

15 WHEREAS, After teaching at George Williams College for two
16 years, Dr. Worrill joined the faculty of Northeastern Illinois
17 University's Department of Inner City Studies, now Urban
18 Community Studies, in 1976; during his 40-year tenure, he
19 served as the program's department chair and academic
20 coordinator; he served as the director of NEIU's Jacob H.
21 Carruthers Center for Inner City Studies (CCICS) in
22 Bronzeville, which he helped establish with Drs. Jacob H.
23 Carruthers and Anderson Thompson; together in 1971, they

1 started an Annual Study Tour at NEIU, which took students to
2 countries in Africa and other countries in the African Diaspora
3 to learn about the impact of African people on civilizations
4 all over the world; he retired from Northeastern Illinois
5 University in December of 2018; and

6 WHEREAS, Dr. Worrill was the radio host of WVON's "On
7 Target" and a key figure in the Great Black Music Project,
8 which sponsors the Jazzy Mondays series at the Carruthers
9 Center for Inner City Studies; he wrote the syndicated weekly
10 column Worrill's World, which was widely read in African
11 American newspapers across the country; and

12 WHEREAS, Dr. Worrill served in leadership roles in numerous
13 organizations, including the National Black United Front and
14 the Black United Fund of Illinois (BUFI); he was active with
15 the National Coalition of Blacks for Reparations in America
16 (N'COBRA) and was a special consultant for the 1995 Million Man
17 March; in 1983, he helped to elect Chicago's first Black mayor,
18 Harold Washington, and co-founded the Task Force for Black
19 Political Empowerment; he traveled to Geneva, Switzerland with
20 a delegation to formally charge the U.S. government with
21 genocide and human rights violations before the Commission on
22 Human Rights in 1997; he also presented the petition to the
23 United Nations; he led a 400-member delegation to the U.N.
24 World Conference Against Racism in Durban, South Africa in

1 2001; and

2 WHEREAS, Dr. Worrill had been an athlete in his youth and
3 believed opportunities for inner city youth could be gained
4 through athletic scholarships; during his retirement, he
5 continued to push for an indoor track facility to be built on
6 the South Side of Chicago; he fought for the Gately Park Indoor
7 Track and Field Facility for 35 years; and

8 WHEREAS, Dr. Worrill, writer, educator, activist,
9 historian, and former talk show host, was a mentor to many and
10 the person most reporters turned to for a perspective on
11 matters impacting the African-American community; his voice
12 will be greatly missed, and his extraordinary career is best
13 expressed with his own words, "I have attempted to provide
14 leadership based on the foundation of what others built, in
15 hopes that the next generation would build on what we have
16 attempted to preserve"; and

17 WHEREAS, Dr. Worrill is survived by his wife, Arlina
18 Worrill, and his daughters, Femi Skanes, Sobenna Worrill,
19 Michelle Worrill, and Kimberley Aisha King; therefore, be it

20 RESOLVED, BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE
21 HUNDRED FIRST GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, that
22 we mourn the passing of Conrad Walter Worrill, Ph.D. and extend

1 our sincere condolences to his family, friends, and all who
2 knew and loved him; and be it further

3 RESOLVED, That a suitable copy of this resolution be
4 presented to the family of Dr. Worrill as an expression of our
5 deepest sympathy.