



SR1188

LRB101 20895 LAW 70797 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 John Henry Crawford Jr. of Oak Park, who passed away on February 1, 2020; and

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WHEREAS, John Crawford Jr. was born in Round Pond, Arkansas to John Henry and Essie Crawford on July 8, 1939; he was the oldest of fourteen children; he graduated from Paul Laurence Dunbar High School in Chicago; he later joined the U.S. Army, where he became a medic and received honors; and

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WHEREAS, John Crawford Jr. married Beulah White in 1961; together, they had five children, Jonathan T. Crawford, Zina (James) Crawford-Lott, Yvonne C. (Archie) Burston, Malcolm S. (Stacia) Crawford, and Cheryle (Ujana) Robinson; he also had two other sons, LeJon Crawford and Vernon Crawford; and

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WHEREAS, John Crawford Jr. was nicknamed "Big John"; he was known as one of the four founders of the West Side Organization (WSO), which advocated on behalf of the black community for civil rights in the early 1960s; he organized many meaningful marches, meetings, and events, which led him to be asked to protect Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. while he was in Chicago; and

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WHEREAS, John Crawford Jr. committed to his faith at an

1 early age and was licensed to minister in the early 1970s; he
2 created F.A.I.T.H., INC., an advocacy organization for the
3 rights of ex-offenders in 1987; and

4 WHEREAS, John Crawford Jr. met Patty Stewart in 1993, and
5 they were married in 1995; they had five children, Djwan,
6 Jackie, Leah, Ziara (Ted) Copper, and Jonathan McDonald; their
7 family grew to include 25 grandchildren, 12
8 great-grandchildren, with one more expected soon, one
9 great-great-grandson, and two godsons, Derrick Reeves and
10 Solomon Robinson; and

11 WHEREAS, John Crawford Jr. was preceded in death by his
12 son, Djwan; his brothers Vernon, Herman, Lester, Harold,
13 Menard, and Cordell Crawford; and his sister, Carolyn (Henry)
14 Johnson; and

15 WHEREAS, John Crawford Jr. is survived by his loving wife
16 of 25 years, Patty Crawford; his brothers, Arnold (Beatrice)
17 and Kenneth (Vinnie) Crawford; his sisters, Dorothy, Erna
18 (Henry), Cheryle (Jesse), and Joan (Johnnie); his
19 brother-in-law, Thomas Stewart; his sister-in-law, Irma
20 (Grant) Dobson; his sons and daughters; and his many special
21 nieces, nephews, cousins, friends, and loved ones; therefore,
22 be it

1 RESOLVED, BY THE SENATE OF THE ONE HUNDRED FIRST GENERAL
2 ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, that we mourn the passing of
3 John Henry Crawford Jr. and extend our sincere condolences to
4 his family, friends, and all who knew and loved him; and be it
5 further

6 RESOLVED, That a suitable copy of this resolution be
7 presented to the family of John Crawford Jr. as an expression
8 of our deepest sympathy.