



SR1598

LRB101 22902 ECR 73994 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 Reverend Dr. Leon Dorsey Finney Jr., who passed away on September 4, 2020; and

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WHEREAS, Dr. Leon Finney was born to Leon Dorsey Sr. and Adline Jones Finney in Louise, Mississippi on July 7, 1938; he moved to Chicago at a young age and graduated from Hyde Park Academy High School in 1957; he attended the University of Illinois and then enlisted in the United States Marine Corps, where he served as a military police officer and worked in counterintelligence; he later earned post-baccalaureate degrees in economics, urban community development, theological studies, and public administration from Goddard College, McCormick Theological Seminary, and Nova University, respectively; and

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WHEREAS, After a short career in banking and finance, Dr. Leon Finney found his greatest joy was serving his community; he trained in the art of community organizing and was recruited to work for the Woodlawn Organization; he would later be named as the executive director of the organization and then president and fought tirelessly to revitalize urban communities; he also taught at various colleges and universities, including the University of Chicago, the

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1 Lutheran School of Theology, the University of Illinois,
2 Northwestern University, the Presbyterian College of Korea,
3 and the Theological College of the Bahamas; and

4 WHEREAS, Dr. Leon Finney served as vice chairman of the
5 Chicago Public Housing Authority; he was a member of the board
6 of trustees for Chicago State University and the YMCA; he had
7 also been a member of the Chicago Planning Commission; he
8 founded Christ Apostolic Church and served as its pastor until
9 the church merged with Metropolitan Apostolic Community Church
10 in Bronzeville, where he served as senior pastor; and

11 WHEREAS, Dr. Leon Finney received numerous awards and
12 honors for his professional and civic work; he authored several
13 publications on economic and social development and created
14 programs that developed future leaders, like the African
15 American Leadership program at McCormick Theological Seminary;
16 and

17 WHEREAS, Dr. Leon Dorsey was preceded in death by his
18 parents; the mother of his children, Sharon McGaughey Finney;
19 and his son, Leon (Tre') Dorsey Finney, III; and

20 WHEREAS, Dr. Leon Dorsey is survived by his daughter,
21 Kristin Finney-Cooke; his son-in-law, Dr. Gerald Lynzie Cooke;
22 his three grandchildren, Jaiden, Ava, and Gerald (Liam); his

1 siblings, Gwen, Zenobia (Rene), Michael, Michelle, and Andre;
2 his former wife, Attorney Georgette Greenlee; his cousins,
3 Attorney James Montgomery, Warren Jones, former Secretary of
4 Agriculture Michael Espy, and Henry Espy; and his many loving
5 nieces, nephews, and family friends; therefore, be it

6 RESOLVED, BY THE SENATE OF THE ONE HUNDRED FIRST GENERAL
7 ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, that we mourn the passing of
8 Reverend Dr. Leon Dorsey Finney Jr. after a lifetime of service
9 and dedication to social justice and extend our sincere
10 condolences to his family, friends, and all who knew and loved
11 him; and be it further

12 RESOLVED, That a suitable copy of this resolution be
13 presented to the family of Dr. Leon Finney as an expression of
14 our deepest sympathy.