



SR1599

LRB101 23227 MST 74372 r

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SENATE RESOLUTION

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WHEREAS, The members of the Illinois Senate are saddened to
3 learn of the death of Rosie Lee Atchison; and

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WHEREAS, Rosie Atchison was born in Bolivar, Mississippi to
5 Rosanna Ford and Henry Liner on August 15, 1911; after her
6 mother died when she was an infant, she and her father later
7 relocated to Clarksdale, Mississippi; she had a short first
8 marriage to Willie Alexander, and they had three children; she
9 later married Andrew Atchison, and they had two children; and

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WHEREAS, Rosie Atchison and her two young children migrated
11 to Chicago in 1935; she joined the Greater Salem Baptist
12 Church, where she was a member of the Dr. Watt's Choir; in
13 1937, she married Andrew Atchison, and for 14 years, they lived
14 in what was known as Chicago's Black Metropolis, The Mecca
15 Building, where she was known to always help those in need; she
16 was hired as a coach cleaner for the Pennsylvania Railroad in
17 1940; and

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WHEREAS, By 1951, Rosie Atchison's family and all residents
19 of the Mecca Building were forced out of their homes for the
20 purpose of building what is now the Illinois Institute of
21 Technology; she and her family lived in several locations,
22 after seeking shelter at City Hall, and she eventually moved

1 into the Robert Taylor Homes with her eldest daughter and eight
2 grandchildren following the passing of her husband in 1963; and

3 WHEREAS, Rosie Atchison purchased a two flat building in
4 Chicago's Englewood community on November 20, 1970; after 30
5 years of service with the railroad, she retired from what is
6 now known today as Amtrak; and

7 WHEREAS, Rosie Atchison was affectionately known as "Big
8 Ma"; she helped to keep her community a safe place for every
9 resident young and old in her neighborhood; her door was always
10 open to those in need, and she was truly a pillar in her
11 community and well-respected; she will especially be
12 remembered for setting an example for her family of the
13 importance of hard work, determination, and perseverance; and

14 WHEREAS, Rosie Atchison was preceded in death by her
15 husband, Andrew; two children; two grandchildren; two
16 great-grandchildren; and one great-great-grandchild; and

17 WHEREAS, Rosie Atchison is survived by two children; 16
18 grandchildren; 58 great-grandchildren; 94
19 great-great-grandchildren; and 24
20 great-great-great-grandchildren; therefore, be it

21 RESOLVED, BY THE SENATE OF THE ONE HUNDRED FIRST GENERAL

1 ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, that we mourn the passing of
2 Rosie Lee Atchison and extend our sincere condolences to her
3 family, friends, and all who knew and loved her; and be it
4 further

5 RESOLVED, That a suitable copy of this resolution be
6 presented to the family of Rosie Atchison as an expression of
7 our deepest sympathy.