



HR0012

LRB102 05092 MST 15112 r

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HOUSE RESOLUTION

2 WHEREAS, The members of the Illinois House of
3 Representatives wish to congratulate Illinois State
4 Representative Mary Flowers on becoming the longest-serving
5 African American legislator in the history of Illinois upon
6 the commencement of the 102nd General Assembly; and

7 WHEREAS, Rep. Flowers was born in Inverness, Mississippi
8 on July 31, 1951 and moved to Chicago as a child with her
9 family as part of a movement known as the Great Migration; she
10 attended Simeon High School, Kennedy-King College, and the
11 University of Illinois at Chicago (UIC) Circle; she then began
12 working at UIC; and

13 WHEREAS, Rep. Flowers became interested in politics when
14 reading about Harold Washington, then a State legislator; she
15 began volunteering for him, and he encouraged her to run for
16 state representative, which she did, winning her first
17 election in 1984 and beginning her service in 1985; and

18 WHEREAS, Rep. Flowers's notable accomplishments include
19 helping prevent public pension funds from being invested in
20 South Africa due to apartheid, spearheading the naming of
21 Chicago's Bishop Ford Expressway after Bishop Louis Henry
22 Ford, and creating a hospital report card as the chief

1 sponsor, along with then-State Sen. Barack Obama, in order to
2 ensure that consumers have access to information about the
3 quality of health care provided in Illinois; and

4 WHEREAS, Rep. Flowers received legislator appreciation
5 awards or legislator of the year awards from organizations
6 including the Community Behavior Healthcare Association of
7 Illinois, the Chicago Teachers Union, and the Illinois
8 Alcoholism and Drug Dependence Association; and

9 WHEREAS, Rep. Flowers has focused her legislative work
10 largely on improving the quality of life for children and
11 families through measures to improve health care access and
12 services, child and youth advocacy, and education; and

13 WHEREAS, Rep. Flowers and her late husband Daniel have a
14 daughter, Makeda, and a granddaughter, Madison; and

15 WHEREAS, Committed to making a difference, Rep. Flowers
16 works to improve the lives of all people in our State;
17 therefore, be it

18 RESOLVED, BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE
19 HUNDRED SECOND GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, that
20 we congratulate Illinois State Representative Mary Flowers on
21 becoming the longest-serving African American legislator in

1 the history of Illinois upon the commencement of the 102nd
2 General Assembly; and be it further

3 RESOLVED, That a suitable copy of this resolution be
4 presented to Rep. Flowers as a symbol of our respect and
5 esteem.