



HR0438

LRB102 19953 ECR 28732 r

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HOUSE RESOLUTION

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WHEREAS, The members of the Illinois House of Representatives are saddened to learn of the death of Robert Shaw of Chicago, who passed away on July 22, 2021; and

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WHEREAS, Robert Shaw was born to McKinley and Gertrude Shaw in Hope, Arkansas on July 31, 1937; during his early childhood, he and his family relocated to the West Side of Chicago where he attended Brown Elementary School and Crane High School; he married Margie Shaw, and they had two sons; he was married to Wilmer Shaw at the time of his passing; and

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WHEREAS, Robert Shaw had a 60 year plus career in state, county, and city government; along his career path, he was an executive with the Illinois Department of Labor, an inspector general for the Village of Dolton, and a commissioner of the Cook County Board of Review; as a commissioner, he was held in high regard for assisting unfairly assessed property owners in obtaining tax reductions; and

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WHEREAS, Robert Shaw served as an alderman/committeeman in the 9th Ward for 20 years; over 100 ordinances were entered into the city records as a result of his efforts and work with fellow councilpersons; through his push for fairness and equity, he is credited with numerous upward mobility

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1 opportunities for Black businesses at O'Hare and Midway
2 Airports; and

3 WHEREAS, At age 17, Robert Shaw became a precinct captain
4 under the late Ben Lewis, the first Black Alderman of the 24th
5 Ward; he and his twin brother William were influential in
6 supporting Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.'s fair housing
7 initiative for West Side residents; he and William helped
8 support and launch the careers of many, including more than 60
9 judges; and

10 WHEREAS, Robert Shaw sponsored the 9th Ward's Annual Back
11 to School Parade and Picnic, Thanksgiving and Christmas basket
12 give-a-ways, and holiday dinners for senior residents; he made
13 numerous donations to various block club activities; he and
14 William established a bowling league, which fostered the
15 importance of fellowship; and

16 WHEREAS, For a number of years, Robert Shaw hosted a radio
17 show on WVON where he and guests gave their opinions on local
18 and national issues; and

19 WHEREAS, Until a few years ago, Robert Shaw was an avid
20 golfer who sponsored and attended numerous golf outings; his
21 culinary expertise was known to many; he was out-spoken,
22 charismatic, and jovial and always dressed in a suit; and

1 WHEREAS, Robert Shaw committed to his faith at an early
2 age, and at his passing, he was a member of the Logos Baptist
3 Assembly; he deeply believed that political activism would
4 help create a better community, and he believed everyone could
5 make a positive contribution; and

6 WHEREAS, Robert Shaw was preceded in death by his parents;
7 his brothers, Paul, Gene, Charles, and William; and his
8 children, Herbert, Dexter, John, and Debra; and

9 WHEREAS, Robert Shaw is survived by his wife, Wilmer Shaw;
10 his daughters, Lolita (Theodore) Cleveland and Kristen Shaw;
11 his sons, Chad Hill and Brandon Roberts; his surrogate son,
12 Jason Rodriguez; his godson, Justice Nathaniel Howse Jr.; his
13 grandchildren, Aunalicia Lockhart, Apollo Shaw, Adonnis Shaw,
14 Arasmus Shaw, Kayla (Gregory) Herot, Theodore Cleveland III,
15 Terrence Cleveland, Travis Cleveland, Thirzel Cleveland, and
16 Jamila Cleveland; his sister, Bobbie Brown; his
17 sisters-in-law, Shirley Shaw and Deborah Green; his nineteen
18 great-grandchildren; his host of great-great-grandchildren;
19 his special nephew, Victor Andre Shaw; his other relatives;
20 his friends; and his former 9th Ward chief of staff and Cook
21 County Board of Review chief of staff and long-time pal,
22 William "Bill" Lockhart; therefore, be it

1 RESOLVED, BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE
2 HUNDRED SECOND GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, that
3 we mourn the passing of Robert Shaw and extend our sincere
4 condolences to his family, friends, and all who knew and loved
5 him; and be it further

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