



HR0689

LRB102 26447 ECR 36845 r

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HOUSE RESOLUTION

2           WHEREAS, The members of the Illinois House of  
3 Representatives are saddened to learn of the death of Major  
4 Armstead Jr., Ed.D., who passed away on February 18, 2022; and

5           WHEREAS, Dr. Armstead was born to Amanda and Major  
6 Armstead Sr. in Chicago on December 26, 1938; he graduated  
7 from DuSable High School in 1956; he received his Bachelor of  
8 Education from Chicago Teachers College in 1961; he obtained  
9 his Master of Science and Education from Illinois State  
10 Teachers College in Chicago in 1965; he earned his doctoral  
11 degree in Education from Nova University in 1976; and

12           WHEREAS, Dr. Armstead began his career in education with  
13 the Chicago Public Schools (CPS) at Beale Elementary School in  
14 1961; within ten years, he was appointed principal of Chalmers  
15 Elementary School; in 1972, he became principal of Hess Upper  
16 Grade Center, where he served for five years before being  
17 appointed principal of Foreman High School; from 1982 through  
18 1988, he directed basic skills improvement programs for 75  
19 high schools; he served as executive director of the CPS High  
20 School Renaissance Program and later as director of Program  
21 Planning and Development for the CPS Office of Field  
22 Superintendent-High Schools; after serving as CPS District 4  
23 Superintendent from 1988 to 1992, he left Chicago to become

1 the General Superintendent of Racine, Wisconsin Unified School  
2 District; he held this position until his retirement in 1997;  
3 upon returning to Chicago, he worked as a consultant for a  
4 number of school districts; he also served as a faculty member  
5 at local colleges and universities, including Chicago State  
6 University, DePaul University, the Chicago Consortium of  
7 Colleges and Universities, Roosevelt University, Governors  
8 State University, National College of Education (now part of  
9 National-Louis University), and Harvard University; and

10 WHEREAS, Dr. Armstead was the founder and president of  
11 Winning Wellness, LLP; since 1992, his consulting company has  
12 provided educational advice specifically around teacher and  
13 administrator training designed to improve student  
14 performance; and

15 WHEREAS, Dr. Armstead was a volunteer leader in many  
16 programs and activities that helped to improve the quality of  
17 life for people in his community; he volunteered as a  
18 consultant to the White House Conference on Secondary Schools,  
19 as chairman for the Leadership Volunteer Council at Chicago  
20 State University, as a member of the Advisory Committee for  
21 Carthage College (WI), as a board member of Junior  
22 Achievement, Inc. (Chicago and Racine, Wisconsin), and, most  
23 recently, as a board member of Matteson Elementary School  
24 District School 162 Board of Education; and

1           WHEREAS, Dr. Armstead authored several articles and  
2 textbooks, including Target Reading Series with Laidlaw  
3 Brothers Publishers, Good English with Laidlaw Brothers  
4 Publishers, and Language Experience Program with Laidlaw  
5 Brothers Publishers; and

6           WHEREAS, Dr. Armstead has been recognized for his  
7 community support and leadership; he was a recipient of the  
8 Outstanding Achievement in Public Service Award from Chicago  
9 State University in 2009; he received the Urban League  
10 Education Award in Kenosha/Racine, Wisconsin in 1992; he was  
11 named Principal of the Year by the Citizens Schools Committee  
12 in Chicago in 1982, Educator of the Year by the Phi Delta Kappa  
13 Chicago Chapter in 1981-1982, and Most Distinguished Man of  
14 Illinois from the Continuing Academic Training Children and  
15 Youth Services, Inc. in 2017; and

16           WHEREAS, On March 7, 1959, Dr. Armstead was initiated into  
17 the Iota Chapter of Kappa Alpha Psi Fraternity, Incorporated;  
18 as a member, he served in several positions, such as polemarch  
19 of the Chicago Alumni Chapter, Chairman of the Chicago Alumni  
20 Chapter Scholarship Committee, and president of the Edward G.  
21 Irvin Foundation, Inc.; he was the recipient of the Most  
22 Distinguished Alumni Award of North Central Province in 1999;  
23 he was given the Edward G. Irvin Foundation, Inc. Award in 2009

1 for his role in assisting young men/students to become  
2 productive citizens; and

3 WHEREAS, Dr. Armstead committed to his faith at an early  
4 age; he was a member of New Faith Baptist Church  
5 International, where he served in the Men's Ministry and was  
6 the chairman of the Education Pathways Ministry; he married  
7 his wife Sharon at New Faith in 2006; they met in 1990 and  
8 enjoyed over 30 wonderful years together; and

9 WHEREAS, Dr. Armstead was preceded in death by his  
10 parents; and

11 WHEREAS, Dr. Armstead leaves cherished memories with his  
12 daughters' mother, Judith Armstead; his daughters, Annyce  
13 Armstead and Alison Armstead; his wife, Sharon Cruse Armstead;  
14 his stepchildren, Celeste Boyd, Charmaine Boyd, and Thomas  
15 Boyd Sr.; his grandchildren, Amanda Story, Demery Major  
16 Armstead McLaughlin, Ricky E.K. Smalling, Cerena Hudson, and  
17 Thomas Boyd Jr.; his great-grandchildren, Adjua Beck El, Zaria  
18 Story, and Emery McLaughlin; his brother-in-law, Paul Cruse  
19 Jr.; his cousin, Albert Gaston Jr.; his host of nieces and  
20 nephews; and his other loved one; therefore, be it

21 RESOLVED, BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE  
22 HUNDRED SECOND GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, that

1 we mourn the passing of Major Armstead Jr., Ed.D. and extend  
2 our sincere condolences to his family, friends, and all who  
3 knew and loved him; and be it further

4       RESOLVED, That a suitable copy of this resolution be  
5 presented to the family of Dr. Major Armstead as an expression  
6 of our deepest sympathy.