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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 Pastor
4 Gicele "Gigi" Wray-Lindley, who passed away on October 1,
5 2022; and

6 WHEREAS, Pastor Wray-Lindley was born to Esteban and
7 Isabel Wray in Colon, Panama on May 28, 1976; as a child, she
8 attended The Church of Jesus Christ of the Apostolic Faith,
9 where she started singing solos by age seven; by age nine, she
10 started leading praise and worship on Sunday mornings; by age
11 13, she served as the choir director and youth leader; at the
12 age of 14, she was a lead soloist in her high school choir; and

13 WHEREAS, Pastor Wray-Lindley was ordained as an Evangelist
14 when she was 23; and

15 WHEREAS, Pastor Wray-Lindley earned her bachelor's degree
16 in Psychology with a minor in Early Childhood Education from
17 the University of Illinois at Chicago; she completed her
18 master's degree in Human Services Administration and most
19 recently completed a master's degree in Nonprofit Management
20 and Organizational Leadership; at the time of her passing, she
21 was pursuing her Doctorate of Education in Ethical Leadership;
22 and

1 WHEREAS, In 2004, Pastor Wray-Lindley founded Shining Star
2 Youth and Community Services and Shining Star Early Learning
3 Centers to provide early literacy and family support to
4 children; under her leadership as CEO, her creation became a
5 successful multi-center, bilingual child care operation, which
6 provides quality early learning to 407 children and employs
7 over 100 people today; and

8 WHEREAS, In 2014, Pastor Wray-Lindley, along with her
9 family, founded The Wray Family Foundation to improve the
10 lives of aspiring community service leaders in need of
11 mentoring and financial support while pursuing formal
12 education; and

13 WHEREAS, In 2015, Pastor Wray-Lindley co-founded Child
14 Care Advocates United, a non-profit professional organization
15 for child care providers and early childhood educators in the
16 State of Illinois; and

17 WHEREAS, Pastor Wray-Lindley and her husband, Omar
18 Lindley, ministered in several Latin American countries,
19 including Costa Rica, Peru, Paraguay, Nicaragua, Guatemala,
20 Panama, and Argentina; they also traveled and ministered in
21 Brazil, on the African Continent, and in several U.S. states;
22 in 2017, they launched the bilingual ministry Transformation

1 Church International; and

2 WHEREAS, In 2020, Pastor Wray-Lindley founded Auntie
3 Gigi's to develop a generation of transformative leaders while
4 bridging the gap between ministry and the marketplace; and

5 WHEREAS, Pastor Wray-Lindley helped her daughter,
6 Serenity, start an anti-labeling initiative by launching a
7 publishing company, and the company's first published book was
8 entitled, Stop Calling Me Bossy; and

9 WHEREAS, Pastor Wray-Lindley is survived by her husband
10 and her two daughters, Serenity Blessing and Heavenly
11 Blessing; therefore, be it

12 RESOLVED, BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE
13 HUNDRED SECOND GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, that
14 we mourn the passing of Pastor Gicele "Gigi" Wray-Lindley and
15 extend our sincere condolences to her family, friends, and all
16 who knew and loved her; and be it further

17 RESOLVED, That a suitable copy of this resolution be
18 presented to the family of Pastor Wray-Lindley as an
19 expression of our deepest sympathy.