



SR1253

LRB102 29339 ECR 41320 r

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SENATE RESOLUTION

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WHEREAS, The members of the Illinois Senate are saddened to learn of the death of Berta Louise Cowan Lightford of Chicago, who passed away on October 23, 2022; and

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WHEREAS, Berta Lightford was born to Andy Cowan Jr. and Mary Frances Leslie Cowan in Huntsville, Alabama on November 19, 1925; she attended Springhill Grammar School and Council High School in Madison County, Alabama; she took welding classes at A&M College during World War II; she married Eddie Clifton Lightford on November 22, 1944, and they moved to Chicago in 1946, raising their children there for 32 years; and

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WHEREAS, Berta Lightford worked at Redstone Arsenal, a U.S. Army base, in Huntsville, Alabama; she became a housewife after marriage, which she loved as she and her husband were very family oriented; and

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WHEREAS, Berta Lightford volunteered as block club president after becoming a widow; she then became a precinct captain, joining two of her daughters in politics; and

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WHEREAS, Berta Lightford was committed to her faith; she grew up as a member of the Springhill Methodist AME Church; she

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1 was later baptized at Mount Hebron Baptist Church in Chicago,
2 where she often attended services with her daughters; and

3 WHEREAS, Berta Lightford enjoyed entertaining her family,
4 traveling, fishing, watching soap operas, shopping, and
5 decorating her home; and

6 WHEREAS, Berta Lightford was known for living her life on
7 her own terms; she loved her family immensely and was
8 endlessly proud of them and their accomplishments, happily
9 sharing family stories with others; and

10 WHEREAS, Berta Lightford was preceded in death by her
11 parents; her husband; her grandfather, Andy Cowan Sr.; her
12 grandmother, Berta Timmons-Joyner Cowan; her cousin, Arthur
13 Love Sr.; her brother, James Daniel "JD" Cowan; her
14 brother-in-law, Ennis Lightford; and her best friend and
15 sister-in-law, Delia Fitchheard Lightford; and

16 WHEREAS, Berta Lightford is survived by her children,
17 Andrew Clark, Melvin (Barbara) Leon Sr., Carolyn (Paul),
18 Pamela Olivia, and Mamie Frances; her grandchildren, Carmelita
19 Patrice (Eric), Billy Arthur, Janon Monique, April Marie,
20 Kimberly Ann (Eric), Michael Clark, Pamela Delores, Melvin
21 (Sonya) Leon Jr., Curtis II, Carolyn Lightford, Jessica Lynn
22 (Zachary), and Darryl Stephen; her 21 great-grandchildren; her

1 12 great-great-grandchildren; her stepson, Arthur Lee
2 (Joanne); her nine step-grandchildren; her nephews, Lynn
3 Patrick Love and Virgil (Kathy) Blevins; a host of nieces,
4 nephews, and cousins; her goddaughter, Deborah Ann Gamble; and
5 her friends, Linton Johnson, Maria Branch, Michael Owens, and
6 Curtis Owens Sr.; therefore, be it

7 RESOLVED, BY THE SENATE OF THE ONE HUNDRED SECOND GENERAL
8 ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, that we mourn the passing of
9 Berta Louise Cowan Lightford and extend our sincere
10 condolences to her family, friends, and all who knew and loved
11 her; and be it further

12 RESOLVED, That a suitable copy of this resolution be
13 presented to the family of Berta Lightford as an expression of
14 our deepest sympathy.