



SR1368

LRB102 30036 LAW 42233 r

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SENATE RESOLUTION

2 WHEREAS, The members of the Illinois Senate are saddened
3 to learn of the death of radio and TV personality Floyd A.
4 Brown of Elgin, who passed away on December 9, 2022; and

5 WHEREAS, Floyd Brown was born to Faye Lee
6 McFarland-Grayson and Lewis O. Woods in Dallas, Texas on
7 November 5, 1930; he left Texas at an early age, moving to
8 Washington, D.C., where he graduated from high school at the
9 age of 16; he served in the U.S. Army; and

10 WHEREAS, Floyd Brown's military service led him to become
11 an engineer at radio station WRMN in Elgin in 1951, and his
12 career included working as program manager and personality for
13 WYNR; he was the first African American to sign with NBC and
14 WMAQ, where he was an announcer and on-air personality; he
15 worked at WGN from 1971 to 1999, during which he worked as a
16 sportscaster and sports anchor on the evening news; with his
17 iconic voice, he hosted The Floyd Brown Show on WGN for more
18 than 29 years, where he featured entertainment, music,
19 interviews, and news/business topics, and his guests included
20 such legendary jazz artists as Duke Ellington, Lionel Hampton,
21 and Ella Fitzgerald; in addition to his time at WGN, he joined
22 the Chicago Sunday Evening Club in 1985 and hosted WTTW's 30
23 Good Minutes until he retired in 1996; and

1 WHEREAS, Floyd Brown contributed his time and talents to
2 the arts and civic life in his local community of Elgin; he was
3 a founding member of the Elgin Human Relations Commission and
4 served as president of the Elgin Housing Commission and
5 marketing director for the Kane County Fair; he was master of
6 ceremonies for WGN's Know Your Heritage, the Bud Billiken
7 Parade, the Gospel Stellar Awards, and Central City
8 Productions; and

9 WHEREAS, Floyd Brown received many awards, including the
10 D. Ray Wilson Volunteer Service Award from Judson University,
11 the Friend of Education Award from Elgin Community College,
12 and the Trailblazer Award from the Quad City Urban League; he
13 was inducted into WGN Radio's Walk of Fame on March 22, 2016;
14 he was also recognized for his achievements as a civil rights
15 activist and his commitment to supporting the arts; and

16 WHEREAS, Floyd Brown, an avid golfer and sports
17 enthusiast, was the first African American to become a member
18 of a private country club in the State of Illinois; he served
19 on the board of the United States Golf Association and the
20 Chicago District Golf Association; and

21 WHEREAS, Floyd Brown will be remembered as a legendary
22 trailblazer whose major role and notoriety as a Black man in

1 media paved the way for other people of color to achieve
2 success in broadcasting, while simultaneously bringing joy and
3 entertainment to homes across the country; and

4 WHEREAS, Floyd Brown was preceded in death by his parents;
5 and

6 WHEREAS, Floyd Brown is survived by his wife of 67 years,
7 Mary Elizabeth "Betty" Brown; his son, Judge Floyd Keith
8 Brown; his daughter, Diane Brown; his grandchildren, Marcus
9 (Amanda) Brown, Nicole Brown, Jordan Douglas, and Taylor
10 Douglas; and his great-grandchildren, Mikayla, Caleb, and
11 Cassidy Brown; therefore, be it

12 RESOLVED, BY THE SENATE OF THE ONE HUNDRED SECOND GENERAL
13 ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, that we mourn the passing of
14 Floyd A. Brown and extend our sincere condolences to his
15 family, friends, and all who knew and loved him; and be it
16 further

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