



HR0112

LRB103 31289 ECR 58482 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 Eugene Morice Barnes, who passed away on November 13, 2022; and

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WHEREAS, Eugene Barnes, the eighth of 11 children born to John and Nettie L. Barnes, was born in Chicago on July 24, 1931; and

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WHEREAS, Eugene Barnes was a product of Chicago Public Schools and graduated from Wendell Phillips High School; and

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WHEREAS, Following high school, Eugene Barnes joined the U.S. Air Force as a private, serving in France and Germany during the Korean Conflict; during his service, he achieved the rank of sergeant and earned a Certificate of Accounting from the U.S. Air Force Specialist School; and

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WHEREAS, After returning home with an honorable discharge, Eugene Barnes started his professional career working for the Social Security Administration; this was followed by a stint with the U.S. Internal Revenue Service and then a 14-year tenure with the Chicago Transit Authority; and

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WHEREAS, Eugene Barnes was elected to the Illinois House

1 of Representatives and served the 29th District from 1970 to
2 1979; and

3 WHEREAS, Joining a group of lawmakers who helped found the
4 Illinois Legislative Black Caucus a few years prior to his
5 arrival in Springfield, Eugene Barnes championed legislation
6 that helped to create the Illinois State Lottery, made
7 Illinois the first state to provide funding for Sickle Cell
8 Anemia, and secured appropriations to finance the first
9 buildings on the Chicago State University campus; and

10 WHEREAS, In 1979, Eugene Barnes resigned his seat in the
11 Illinois House when he was named the first Black chairman of
12 the Chicago Transit Authority; he was later elected chairman
13 of the American Public Transportation Association; and

14 WHEREAS, During his four terms as a state legislator,
15 Eugene Barnes' work on behalf of Illinois families earned him
16 much recognition, including the Outstanding Legislator Award
17 from the Federation of Independent Illinois Colleges and
18 Universities; and

19 WHEREAS, While in office and following his retirement from
20 the Illinois General Assembly, Eugene Barnes remained active
21 in the community as a proud member a number of organizations,
22 including the Maple Park Homeowners Association, the NAACP,

1 and the A. Phillip Randolph Association and as a life member of
2 ATU Local 241 and Operation Breadbasket, now Operation PUSH;
3 and

4 WHEREAS, Eugene Barnes was preceded in death by his wife
5 of 42 years, Lei-Lani Roach and his grandchild, Eric Antwon;
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7 WHEREAS, Eugene M. Barnes is survived by his three
8 children, Vikki L. Barnes-McKenzie, EuGina M. Barnes, and
9 Craig D. Barnes, and his six grandchildren, Michael Dewayne
10 Jr., Tiffany Danielle, Craig Dareen II, Timothy Jacob, Elijah
11 Malachi, and LeiLani MyL; therefore, be it

12 RESOLVED, BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE
13 HUNDRED THIRD GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, that
14 we mourn the passing of Eugene Morice Barnes and extend our
15 sincere condolences to his family, friends, and all who knew
16 and loved him; and be it further

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