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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 Odessa Hartley McReynolds, who passed away on December 25, 2022; and

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WHEREAS, Odessa McReynolds was born in Addicks, Texas to Pearl (Roquemore) and Daniel Hartley on November 20, 1924; she grew up on her family's farm in southeast Texas surrounded by her immediate and extended family and pets, including a dog known affectionately as Such; she was raised in Damascus Missionary Baptist Church in Houston and spent much of her adolescence under the care of her aunt, Ella; she graduated from Jack Yates High School; and

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WHEREAS, Odessa McReynolds moved to Chicago in 1942 at the age of 17 and became a member of Union Evangelistic Baptist Church in Chicago Heights; and

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WHEREAS, Odessa McReynolds married Marshall Berry McReynolds on September 24, 1944, and they raised their family in East Chicago Heights (now Ford Heights) before moving to Markham; and

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WHEREAS, Odessa McReynolds held a variety of jobs throughout her life; she retired from being a certified

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1 nursing assistant at Windmill Nursing Pavilion in South  
2 Holland; she always maintained, however, that her primary and  
3 most important occupation was being a devoted mother,  
4 grandmother, and great-grandmother; and

5 WHEREAS, Odessa McReynolds was a faithful member of her  
6 children's schools' parent-teacher associations, serving in  
7 the roles of vice president and president in both Ford Heights  
8 and Midlothian; she was deeply committed to her children's  
9 formal education; and

10 WHEREAS, Odessa McReynolds joined Portland Street Church  
11 of God in Christ at the age of 23, where she remained a  
12 dedicated member for nearly eight decades; she was active with  
13 the Sunday school, teaching vacation Bible school and junior  
14 and adult Sunday school; ultimately, she served in the  
15 position of adult Sunday school assistant superintendent; she  
16 was also a well-respected member of the Mother's Board,  
17 holding the position of head church mother; and

18 WHEREAS, Odessa McReynolds was preceded in death by her  
19 husband, Marshall; her parents; her grandparents, Sam and  
20 Lizzie Roquemore; her aunt, Ella Roquemore Walls; her  
21 daughter, Mardine; her grandsons, Larry and Khal; and other  
22 close relatives and friends; and

1           WHEREAS, Odessa McReynolds is survived by her children,  
2 Marshall, James (LaQuetia), Janis, Myron (Nancy), and Bettie;  
3 her grandchildren, Marcya, Dina, Terence, Marquis, Jonathan,  
4 Sydney, Chaz, Caroline, and Julia; her great-grandchildren,  
5 Jalen, Khylah, Khalil, Angel, Alexis, Zachariah, Marquis Jr.,  
6 and Manuel; her cousins, Bettye Jo Taylor and Ava Stewart; and  
7 numerous other dear family members and friends; therefore, be  
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9           RESOLVED, BY THE SENATE OF THE ONE HUNDRED THIRD GENERAL  
10 ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, that we mourn the passing of  
11 Odessa Hartley McReynolds and extend our sincere condolences  
12 to her family, friends, and all who knew and loved her; and be  
13 it further

14           RESOLVED, That a suitable copy of this resolution be  
15 presented to the family of Odessa McReynolds as an expression  
16 of our deepest sympathy.