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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 Joshua Cornelius Alexander Sr. of Chicago, who passed away on January 28, 2024; and

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WHEREAS, Joshua Alexander was born to Victoria Wright Alexander in Chicago on April 22, 1987; he committed to his faith at an early age, attending Calvary Missionary Baptist Church and then Christ Universal Temple, where he was active in the Sunday school, later becoming a Sunday school teacher, and was a member of the Youth Expressing Christ, the media team, the April Birth Month, and the Healthy Concept groups; he graduated from Harvard School in 2001 and Hales Franciscan High School in 2006, where he was a member of the bowling team and the track team; he attended Columbia College Chicago; and

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WHEREAS, Joshua Alexander contributed his audiovisual technical skills to many cultural and commercial projects throughout Chicago; he worked and volunteered as a theater tech, greeter, museum store clerk, and an educational tour guide at the DuSable Museum of African American History; he interned at the Black Theater Ensemble, where he further developed his audiovisual and acting skills; he worked as a special assistant to Don Jackson for the Bud Billiken Parade and the Chicago Football Classic for Central City Productions;

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1 he also served as an assistant track coach at the University of
2 Chicago Lab School; he recently aided in developing the
3 National Museum of Gospel Music; and

4 WHEREAS, Joshua Alexander was extremely proud of serving
5 as a pastoral escort for Rev. Dr. Johnnie Colemon and being
6 given the opportunity to meet President Barack Obama in the
7 Oval Office at the White House during his first term in office;
8 he had a lifelong association with the Rainbow PUSH Coalition;
9 he was part of Bill Pinkney's Amistad ship crew during its
10 visit to Navy Pier in 2011; he was frequently involved with
11 advocating and supporting African American museums and
12 cultural industries; and

13 WHEREAS, Joshua Alexander loved bowling, and he was
14 recently selected to represent his bowling league at the Beat
15 the Champs charity bowling event; he also danced and drummed
16 for the Muntu Dance Theatre; and

17 WHEREAS, Joshua Alexander enjoyed cooking and mastered
18 many crafts by participating in his family's business,
19 HerVel's Unlimited Ceramics Arts and Crafts; he also enjoyed
20 traveling, visiting Africa at age 12 and bringing home his
21 first drum; he loved playing the drums, a passion he recently
22 started sharing with his son; and

1 WHEREAS, Joshua Alexander was a devoted father who never
2 knew a stranger and welcomed everyone with love; and

3 WHEREAS, Joshua Alexander was preceded in death by his
4 parents; his grandfather, Herman Wright; and his aunt, Loretta
5 Johnson; and

6 WHEREAS, Joshua Alexander is survived by his son, Joshua
7 C. Alexander Jr.; his grandmother, Velma Wright; his aunt,
8 Antoinette Wright; his cousins, Mekeda (Kevin) Johnson Brooks,
9 Jasmin Brooks, Christopher Wallace, Marcus Mays, and Gail
10 Crummie Washington; his special person, Tatiana Kilpatrick;
11 and many other relatives, friends, and colleagues; therefore,
12 be it

13 RESOLVED, BY THE SENATE OF THE ONE HUNDRED THIRD GENERAL
14 ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, that we mourn the passing of
15 Joshua Cornelius Alexander Sr. and extend our sincere
16 condolences to his family, friends, and all who knew and loved
17 him; and be it further

18 RESOLVED, That a suitable copy of this resolution be
19 presented to the family of Joshua Alexander as an expression
20 of our deepest sympathy.