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HOUSE RESOLUTION

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WHEREAS, The members of the House of Representatives of the State of Illinois learned with regret of the death of Edna Burrell Perry, an influential educator in the City of Chicago; and

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WHEREAS, She was born in Washington, D.C., to Annie and Harold F. Burrell; she married Sidney L. Perry in 1954; and

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WHEREAS, Education always played a major role in Mrs. Perry's life; at the age of 15, she was hired at the Library of Congress as a clerk in the Russian transliteration department; later, she taught a business class at her high school while she was a student there; and

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WHEREAS, In 1952, Mrs. Perry enrolled at Howard University in Washington, where she sang in the choir and studied music education; she graduated first in her class in 1956, and she later earned a master's degree in early childhood education from Roosevelt University; and

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WHEREAS, Mrs. Perry and her husband, Sidney, moved to Chicago in 1957, and she began her teaching career in 1958 at Healy Elementary School in Bridgeport; and

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WHEREAS, When she started at Healy Elementary School, Mrs. Perry was the first African-American teacher at any school in Bridgeport, where, initially, some students' parents took them out of her class, but after many of her pupils excelled, parents were fighting to get their children in her classroom; and

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WHEREAS, In 1962 she moved to Wacker Elementary School, where she taught second grade; she eventually became assistant principal and was principal for several years until she retired

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1 in 1994; and

2 WHEREAS, A woman born ahead of her time, she had a strong  
3 entrepreneurial spirit and a keen interest in nutrition and  
4 alternative methods of healing; her involvement as a health  
5 care products distributor became a vehicle for an international  
6 multicultural team with a mission to improve the health of  
7 others; prior to the popularity of nutritional counseling she  
8 stressed the importance of daily vitamin and herbal  
9 supplementation and the connection between the foods consumed  
10 and the body's overall wellbeing; and

11 WHEREAS, Her pursuits where not limited to her career, but  
12 also included involvement in a number of organizations: Delta  
13 Sigma Theta Sorority, National Pharmacists Association  
14 Auxiliary with two terms as President (1977-1979 and  
15 1990-1993), Chicago Pharmacist Association Auxiliary President  
16 (1969-1974), American Cancer Society, and the Black Creativity  
17 Gala Committee of the Museum of Science and Industry, General  
18 Chairperson (2003); and

19 WHEREAS, After retiring, Mrs. Perry continued to serve as  
20 minister of music at Church of the Good Shepherd, as she had  
21 since she and her husband moved to Chicago; she held the  
22 position for 47 years and was the church's longest continuous  
23 employee; and

24 WHEREAS, The passing of Edna Burrell Perry will be felt by  
25 all who knew and loved her, especially her husband, Sidney L.  
26 Perry Jr.; her daughters, Angela Perry (Michael Banks) and  
27 Andrea Perry-Williams (Lemuel Williams); her sister, Edith  
28 Henderson; her Brother James Burrell (Doris); her  
29 granddaughters, Lauren R. Banks and Michelle R. Williams; her  
30 sister-in-law, Hortense Canady (Dr. Clinton Canady); her  
31 father-in-law, Jones E. Franklin; her brother-in-law, Kevin E.  
32 Franklin; her uncle, Smallwood Harrison; her aunt, Odessa

1 Harrison (Clarence); and her many nieces, nephews, cousins, and  
2 friends; therefore, be it

3       RESOLVED, BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE  
4 NINETY-FOURTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, that  
5 that we mourn, along with all who knew and loved her, the death  
6 of Edna Burrell Perry; and be it further

7       RESOLVED, That a suitable copy of this resolution be  
8 presented to the family of Edna Burrell Perry as an expression  
9 of our sympathy.