



SR0246

LRB096 12510 KXB 25614 r

1

SENATE RESOLUTION

2

WHEREAS, The members of the Illinois Senate are saddened to learn of the death of Willie Mae McEwen, who passed away on April 18, 2009; and

3

4

5

WHEREAS, Willie Mae McEwen, affectionately known as Ms. Willie, was born July 26, 1949, in Chicago, to Thomas and Ruth Lee Loney; Willie Mae attended school in the Chicago Public school system; she accepted Christ at an early age and was baptized at the Mt. Hermon Missionary Baptist Church by the late Reverend Joseph A. Allen; and

6

7

8

9

10

11

WHEREAS, Willie Mae married her childhood sweetheart, Ralph McBride Sr., who preceded her in death; to this union two sons were born, Salvador and Ralph; during their union Ralph's active duty in the Armed Services allowed Willie Mae to travel around the world; and

12

13

14

15

16

WHEREAS, Willie Mae's journey through life was not easy, however, she was able to capture many aspects in her poetry; despite all her obstacles, she rededicated her life to Christ at Mt. Hermon where she was a mentor and guiding light for other young women; Willie Mae strived to do and know more, so she pursued higher academic achievements; she earned an Associate Degree in Applied Science with emphasis in Mental

17

18

19

20

21

22

1 Health/Addiction Studies from Kennedy-King College with honors  
2 in May of 2005; and

3 WHEREAS, After receiving her degree, Willie Mae was  
4 employed at HRDI-Human Resources Development Institute where  
5 she was inspirational in leading many women to Christ; she met  
6 and fell instantly in love with Reverend "Chef" John and in  
7 August 2005, Willie Mae married Reverend John McEwen; following  
8 God's direction to worship with her husband, she joined  
9 Cathedral Baptist Church, where she served as the President of  
10 the Prayer Band and a member of the Women's Ministry until God  
11 called her home; and

12 WHEREAS, Willie Mae McEwen was preceded in death by her  
13 son, Ralph; her mother and father; her three brothers and one  
14 sister; and

15 WHEREAS, She leaves to mourn her loving husband, John  
16 McEwen; her son, Salvador (Tonese) Woodie; her three  
17 step-daughters, Rita, Janae, and April; her granddaughter,  
18 Amber; her grandfather, John H Doyle Sr.; her three sisters,  
19 Dianna (Walter) Caston, Elizabeth Derrick, and Carol (Eugene)  
20 Langston; her brother, Norval (Loretta) Davenport III; her  
21 mother-in-law, Carrie Jones; her four brother-in-laws, Robert  
22 (Brenda) McEwen, James (Linda) McEwen, Cedric (Juanita)  
23 McEwen, and Erwin (Debee) McEwen; her four sister-in-laws,

1 Shirley (Gary) Hearn, Idela (Elias) Daugherty, Doris McGhee,  
2 and Carolyn (Alvin) McBride; her favorite aunt and uncle, John  
3 Jr. and Joyce Doyle, who were like a brother and sister to her;  
4 her three aunts, Angelina Brown, Katie Doyle, and Jacqueline  
5 (Addis) McCarroll; her 64 nieces and nephews; her 51  
6 grandnieces and nephews; and a host of cousins and friends; she  
7 also leaves behind one grand niece, Danetta Loney, that she  
8 called her daughter; therefore, be it

9 RESOLVED, BY THE SENATE OF THE NINETY-SIXTH GENERAL  
10 ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, that we mourn, along with  
11 her family and friends, the passing of Willie Mae McEwen; and  
12 be it further

13 RESOLVED, That a suitable copy of this resolution be  
14 presented to the family of Willie Mae McEwen as a symbol of our  
15 sincere sympathy.