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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 Katie Bell Jackson-Booker, who passed away on March 22, 2013; and

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WHEREAS, Katie Jackson-Booker was born on September 7, 1941, in Natchez, Mississippi; her parents were Charles and Mary Russell Green; she married Fred Jackson, Jr. in June of 1958; she later married Melvin Booker in December of 1978; and

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WHEREAS, Katie Jackson-Booker spent her early years in Mississippi and attended Mississippi Valley State and Alcorn University; she and her family moved from Natchez to Dixmoor in September of 1962; and

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WHEREAS, Katie Jackson-Booker served for over 37 years in positions of increasing responsibility for Cook County Health Systems, culminating as a hospital health administrator at the time of her retirement in 2010; after her retirement, she continued working with civic organizations such as Roseland Cease Fire, the Chicago Public Schools Safe Passage program, and the Nehemiah Restoration Coalition; and

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WHEREAS, Katie Jackson-Booker began her active service in community affairs by leading a cause for a new traffic light to

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1 improve safety for the children in the West Harvey/Dixmoor  
2 School District; she went on to become active in community  
3 groups such as PTO, Lunch Moms, Cub Scouts, and the Dixmoor  
4 Little League; she later began serving as President of the  
5 local American Federation of State, County, and Municipal  
6 Employees (AFSCME) council at Oak Forest Hospital; she was an  
7 active member of the Thornton Township Regular Democratic  
8 Organization, participated in its annual Thanksgiving Dinner  
9 every year, and was named one of their "Women of the Year" in  
10 2011; in 1971, she was elected to the Board of Education for  
11 West Harvey/Dixmoor School District 147, where she served for  
12 over 40 years; she served as a Trustee of South Suburban  
13 College District 510 for 19 years; she was deeply committed to  
14 quality public education opportunities and served as Chair of  
15 the Black Caucus of the National School Board Association; she  
16 was also an active member of the National Association of Black  
17 School Educators and the Illinois and National School Board  
18 Associations; and

19 WHEREAS, Katie Jackson-Booker was raised as a Christian  
20 from childhood and was an inaugural member of St. Mark  
21 Missionary Baptist Church; she dutifully educated her family in  
22 Christian doctrine and was a choir member; and

23 WHEREAS, Katie Jackson-Booker was the recipient of  
24 numerous awards and recognitions; in 2012, Vail Street in

1 Harvey was renamed in her honor; she was also an Eastern Star  
2 member of the St. John Lodge Queen of Sheba Chapter; and

3 WHEREAS, Katie Jackson-Booker was preceded in death by her  
4 father, Charles Green; her mother, Mary Savier; her son, Kelvin  
5 Trent; her husband, Melvin Booker; her granddaughter, Salissa;  
6 her cousin, Maurice Stewart; and her extended family, Jackie  
7 Harris, Allison Hall, and Robert Jones; and

8 WHEREAS, Katie Jackson-Booker is survived by her children,  
9 Bobby (Renita), Gregory (Sharon), Marrion (Benard), Reginald  
10 (Barbara), Melvin Leander, and Sheila O'Bryant; her  
11 grandchildren, Tiffane (Kelly), Justin, Imani, Christopher,  
12 DeAndrea, John, Makayla, Marna, Megan, Matthew, Chalessa,  
13 Michela, Charles, and Derrick; her great-grandchildren,  
14 Kameron, Katelyn, Kelly Jr., Khalila, and Makayla; and her  
15 extended family, Velma Jackson, Gladyse (Bernard) Taylor,  
16 Michael, Steven, and Robbyn Hall, DeLeon (Ieshia) Duckworth,  
17 Mary (Kaiser) Wright, Della Patterson, Dorothy Jones, Clara  
18 Henry, Maurice Ricardo, and Effrem Contrel Stewart; therefore,  
19 be it

20 RESOLVED, BY THE SENATE OF THE NINETY-EIGHTH GENERAL  
21 ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, that we mourn, along with  
22 her family and friends, the passing of Katie Bell  
23 Jackson-Booker; and be it further

1           RESOLVED, That a suitable copy of this resolution be  
2 presented to the family of Katie Jackson-Booker as an  
3 expression of our sympathy.