



HR1559

LRB099 24389 MST 52150 r

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HOUSE RESOLUTION

2 WHEREAS, The members of the Illinois House of
3 Representatives are saddened to learn of the death of Leonard
4 E. Hawthorne of Alton, who passed away on December 21, 2016;
5 and

6 WHEREAS, Leonard Hawthorne was born in Doddsville,
7 Mississippi to Jessie L. and Hugh H. Hawthorne on November 11,
8 1945; he grew up in East St. Louis and graduated from Lincoln
9 High School; he served in the United States Army and earned his
10 Bachelor of Science and Master of Science in Business Education
11 and his certification in education administration from
12 Southern Illinois University Edwardsville; he married Birdia
13 Ruth Woods in 1971 and they settled in Alton; and

14 WHEREAS, Leonard Hawthorne began his 32-year career as an
15 educator in Alton Community Unit School District 11; he taught
16 business subjects at Alton High School and the J.B. Johnson
17 Career Development Center; he was a teacher-coordinator for the
18 Distributive Education work-study program, assistant principal
19 at West Junior High School and Alton High School, principal at
20 Lewis & Clark Elementary School, and Title I and Special
21 Services Administrator; he retired in 2003; and

22 WHEREAS, Leonard Hawthorne developed, tested, and taught a

1 financial literacy course to Alton High School students, where
2 he stressed the importance of avoiding the common pitfalls
3 students encounter upon graduating; and

4 WHEREAS, Leonard Hawthorne was involved with several
5 professional organizations, including the National and State
6 Education Association, the National and State Business
7 Education Association, the National Association of Secondary
8 School Principals, and the Illinois Principals Association; he
9 twice received the "Those Who Excel Meritorious Service Award"
10 from the Illinois State Board of Education as Alton High School
11 assistant principal and as district level administrator; and

12 WHEREAS, Leonard Hawthorne was involved with 100 Black Men
13 of Alton and 100 Black Men Youth 100 W.A.Y.S. Financial
14 Literacy Project; he was also involved with the United Way of
15 Southwest Illinois, the Elijah P. Lovejoy Memorial, and the
16 Madison County Urban League Board and Guild, where he served as
17 Board Chairman; and

18 WHEREAS, Leonard Hawthorne was a lifelong member of Pilgrim
19 Rest Missionary Baptist Church, serving for over 40 years as
20 Trustee Board Secretary and Finance Committee Chairman; he was
21 a life member of Kappa Alpha Psi Fraternity and the NAACP; and

22 WHEREAS, Leonard Hawthorne made a difference in the school

1 district and his community; and

2 WHEREAS, Leonard Hawthorne was preceded in death by his
3 wife, Birdia; his parents; his brother, John T. Hawthorne; and
4 his sister, Molly Hawthorne (Patton) Robertson; and

5 WHEREAS, Leonard Hawthorne is survived by his daughter,
6 Melia L. Hawthorne; his son, Antoine (Rebecca) Lawrence; his
7 sister, Ruth H. Clark; his brothers, James (Ruth Ann)
8 Hawthorne, and Hugh H. Hawthorne, Jr.; his mother-in-law, Lovie
9 Woods; his sister-in-law, W. Earnestine Everage; his
10 brother-in-law, Gary D. Woods; his godson, Dirk Johnson, MD;
11 his special friend, Joan Riggs; and a host of nephews, nieces,
12 cousins, and friends; therefore, be it

13 RESOLVED, BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE
14 NINETY-NINTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, that we
15 mourn the passing of Leonard E. Hawthorne, and extend our
16 sincere condolences to his family, friends, and all who knew
17 and loved him; and be it further

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