



HR0485

LRB100 13070 MST 27457 r

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HOUSE RESOLUTION

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WHEREAS, The members of the Illinois House of Representatives wish to congratulate Jesse Davis of Chicago on the occasion of his 100th birthday; and

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WHEREAS, Jesse Davis was born in Tupelo, Mississippi on August 21, 1917, the second of 15 children; he began working on the family farm at a young age; he was also a young entrepreneur and held numerous odd jobs, including collecting bottles to recycle, mowing lawns, and washing planes; he eventually became a crop duster pilot and received a Class A pilot license; and

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WHEREAS, Jesse Davis married Beatrice Bell in 1940 and they were married for 73 years until her passing in 2013; they had two sons, three granddaughters, one grandson, and seven great-grandchildren; and

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WHEREAS, Jesse Davis entered the United States Air Force in 1943; he was the only African American to have a pilots license upon entering the Air Force; he attended Fisk University while driving trucks from Mississippi to New York; he then went to work constructing an electrical line from Warm Springs, Georgia to Dallas, Texas; he also repaired engines for Caterpillar and John Deere; he helped construct a bridge over the Mississippi

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1 River; and

2 WHEREAS, Jesse Davis and his wife settled in Chicago in
3 1950; he worked various jobs in Chicago over the next 30 years;
4 he worked as a maintenance engineer at Wisconsin Steel and Coca
5 Cola; in 1960, he enrolled in a mechanical engineering systems
6 class at Tilden High School; he completed a training program
7 for employment at the Ford Motor Company in Melrose Park and
8 immediately joined Ford's Truck Engine Department in Dearborn,
9 Michigan; he retired from McCarthy Lincoln as a mechanic in
10 1981; and

11 WHEREAS, Jesse Davis always paid special attention to his
12 health; he has not had anything to drink other than water and
13 fresh juices since the age of 19; he is still driving, living,
14 and thinking for himself; and

15 WHEREAS, Jesse Davis enjoys sports, walking, and watching a
16 little television; the last time he played basketball was at
17 the age of 97; therefore, be it

18 RESOLVED, BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE
19 HUNDREDTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, that we
20 congratulate Jesse Davis on his 100th birthday, and we wish him
21 many more wonderful years; and be it further

1 RESOLVED, That a suitable copy of this resolution be
2 presented to Jesse Davis as an expression of our esteem and
3 respect.