



SR0031

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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 Cassandra Lillard "Nini" Reed of Danville, who passed away on December 2, 2016; and

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WHEREAS, Cassandra Reed was born in Danville to Mandy Othella (Turner) and Theotto Lillard Jr. on December 20, 1949; she married Jerry Lee Reed Sr. on December 19, 1970; and

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WHEREAS, Cassandra Reed's educational achievements include: graduate of Danville High School in 1968; Associate Degree in Science from Danville Area Community College in 1970; Bachelor of Science in Recreation from Eastern Illinois University in 1972; Elementary K-9 Teaching Certificate from Eastern Illinois University - Endorsements: Upper Elementary/Jr. High and Physical Education/Social Science in 1974; master's degree in Instructional Media from Eastern Illinois University in 1976; and General Administrative K-12 Certification in 1980; and

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WHEREAS, Cassandra Reed taught children at different levels and different schools for over 35 years; and

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WHEREAS, Cassandra Reed's involvement with Danville School District 118 includes: screening committee for the 1990

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1 selection of Danville High School principal; Unit Leader;  
2 Ownership in Education Committee; pilot Kindergarten reading  
3 book series; District #118 Strategic Planning Committee;  
4 Co-Chair of the District #118 Communication Strategic Planning  
5 Committee; committee for the new Daniel Elementary School; and  
6 Elementary Academic Team Leader; and

7 WHEREAS, Cassandra Reed's involvement with the Danville  
8 (DEA)/Illinois (IEA)/National (NEA) Education Association  
9 includes: DEA President from 1986 to 1991; DEA Grievance  
10 Committee for elementary and middle school; DEA Bargaining Team  
11 Member and Chief Spokesperson; participating in traditional  
12 and collaborative forms of bargaining; and DEA Mentoring  
13 Committee member; and

14 WHEREAS, Cassandra Reed's accomplishments with the IEA/NEA  
15 Black Caucus include: member of IEA/NEA Black Caucus; member of  
16 IEA Minority Caucus; delegate to IEA and NEA Representative  
17 Assembly; IEA Intern for UniServ Director; IEA-NEA RA Planning  
18 Committee member from 1999 to 2000; IEA-NEA RA Collective  
19 Bargaining Committee member; Region 8 Secretary; Region 8  
20 Vice-Chairperson; Region 8 Chairperson; member and Chair of the  
21 Large Local Task Force; Congressional Contact Person; member of  
22 the Constitution and By-laws Committee; member and Chair of the  
23 Waiver Task Force; the Board of Directors/IEA Computer  
24 Committee; member of the Collective Bargaining Committee; NEA

1 Member; NEA member of the Employee Advocacy Committee; and NEA  
2 Moderator for the Retirement and Benefit Forum; and

3 WHEREAS, Cassandra Reed's additional accomplishments  
4 include: Second Baptist Church member/Sunday School Teacher;  
5 Phi Delta Kappa, Delta Kappa Gamma; Workforce Challenge  
6 2000/Education to Careers; East Central Illinois Partnership  
7 for Excellence in Education; Treasurer for East Central  
8 Illinois Partnership for Excellence in Education; Leadership  
9 Danville First Class/Leadership Danville Alumni; Leadership  
10 Danville Steering Committee; Danville Area Community College  
11 Minority Advisory Council; Greater Danville City Plan  
12 Commission; Volunteer Trainer for Danville Peer Court;  
13 Volunteer for United Way Fund and Muscular Dystrophy/Unicef;  
14 Veterans Administration Volunteer; East Central Illinois  
15 Education to Careers Partnership; past member of the YWCA Board  
16 of Directors; Legislative District #53 School Funding Task  
17 Force; and Halo Study Circle participant on Race Relations  
18 2000; and

19 WHEREAS, Cassandra Reed could play basketball, pitch horse  
20 shoes, swim, cut grass, trim hedges, paint, crochet, knit, fix  
21 houses, refurnish furniture, and rap, recording a 1968 rap  
22 song; and

23 WHEREAS, Cassandra Reed was preceded in death by her

1 parents; her brothers, "Baby Boy" Lillard, and Randy Lillard;  
2 her paternal grandparents, Theotto and Geraldine (Martin)  
3 Lillard; and her maternal grandparents, Collis and Mary B.  
4 (Hillsman) Turner; and

5 WHEREAS, Cassandra Reed is survived by her husband of over  
6 45 years, Jerry Reed Sr.; her sons, Jerry Jr. (Yolanda) and  
7 Terian (Ashley); nine grandchildren; one great-grandchild; her  
8 special daughter, Brenda DuHart; her sisters, Twania Lillard,  
9 Jill (Pastor John N.) Staples, and Portia Lillard (Eugene  
10 Webb); her brothers, Theotto Lillard III, Graylen Lillard,  
11 Craig (Elaine) Lillard, and Danny Lillard; her stepmother,  
12 Olivia Lillard; her stepbrothers; her stepsisters; and a host  
13 of nieces, nephews, cousins, and friends; therefore, be it

14 RESOLVED, BY THE SENATE OF THE ONE HUNDREDTH GENERAL  
15 ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, that we mourn the passing of  
16 Cassandra Lillard "Nini" Reed, and extend our sincere  
17 condolences to her family, friends, and all who knew and loved  
18 her; and be it further

19 RESOLVED, That a suitable copy of this resolution be  
20 presented to the family of Cassandra Reed as an expression of  
21 our deepest sympathy.