



SR0374

LRB100 12184 MST 24603 r

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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 Carolyn A. Rush, who passed away on March 13, 2017; and

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WHEREAS, Carolyn Rush was born to Beulah Mae (DeWitt) Maxwell and Tommie James Thomas on May 27, 1949; she grew up in Rossville, Tennessee, where she was a member of DeWitt Temple Church of God in Christ; her family moved to the Chatham neighborhood of Chicago and she attended Betsy Ross Elementary School; she was baptized at the Greater Canaan Missionary Baptist Church and graduated from Hirsch High School in 1967, with honors; she married firefighter Eddie Long in the late 1960s; and

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WHEREAS, Carolyn Rush worked a variety of jobs in her teen and young adult years at places such as Woolworth Department Store, Illinois Bell, Marshall Fields, First National Bank, and the Ford Motor Company; later, she worked at the University of Illinois, the Prudential Insurance Company, the Art Institute of Chicago, and the State of Illinois, where she served under Illinois Treasurer Judy Barr Topinka; and

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WHEREAS, Carolyn Rush married United States Congressman Bobby Lee Rush on May 2, 1980; she worked alongside her husband

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1 selling insurance and served as his first administrative  
2 assistant when he was elected to the Chicago City Council in  
3 1983; it was at her encouragement that he ran for Congress in  
4 1991; she was a leader with the Congressional Black Caucus  
5 Spouses and served as Secretary for the Illinois Electoral  
6 College in 1992; and

7 WHEREAS, Carolyn Rush and her husband founded the Beloved  
8 Community Family Wellness Center, the only federally qualified  
9 medical facility in Englewood, the Rebirth of Englewood Local  
10 Development Corporation, and the Beloved Community Family  
11 Services Corporation - all of which served poor people and the  
12 greater Englewood community; as First Lady of Beloved Community  
13 Church COGIC, she was active in developing social service  
14 programs to address issues arising from poverty, drug  
15 addiction, and violence; and

16 WHEREAS, Carolyn Rush graduated from the American College  
17 of Florists and was a certified florist; she and her husband  
18 enjoyed traveling to Africa, Europe, Mexico, Brazil, Canada,  
19 and across the United States; and

20 WHEREAS, Carolyn Rush was a member of Operation P.U.S.H.  
21 and several other organizations that work to eradicate  
22 discrimination in banking and employment; and

1           WHEREAS, In honor of his beloved wife, U.S. Representative  
2 Bobby L. Rush established the Carolyn A. and Bobby L. Rush  
3 Scholarship, to be awarded to underrepresented minority  
4 students interested in pursuing a career in health sciences  
5 through the Rush University College of Health Sciences program;  
6 and

7           WHEREAS, Carolyn Rush was preceded in death by her son,  
8 Huey; and

9           WHEREAS, Carolyn Rush is survived by her husband, Elder and  
10 Pastor, U.S. Representative Bobby Lee Rush; her sons, Michael  
11 (Sharon) Long, Steven (Tiffany) Long, Jeffery Rush, and Flynn  
12 (Melissa) Rush; her daughters, Fanon (Donald) Tyler, and Kacy  
13 Rush; her sisters, Vanessa Dennis, Stephanie Lemon, Sheila  
14 Thomas-Mahon, Kathryn Thomas-Whaley, and Cora Marie Hall; her  
15 brothers, Kenneth Shields, and Eric Thomas; her grandchildren,  
16 Carlysha, Kaelin, Hannah-Grace, Walter, David, Darius, Jordan,  
17 Nia, Jonathan R., Joshua, Sanii, Aiden, and Arianna; her  
18 mother, Beulah Mae Maxwell; her father, Tommie James (Geneva)  
19 Thomas; her good friend, Rosemary Hall; and a host of nieces,  
20 nephews, cousins, in-laws, extended family, friends,  
21 colleagues, constituents, and Congressman Rush's congressional  
22 staff; therefore, be it

23           RESOLVED, BY THE SENATE OF THE ONE HUNDREDTH GENERAL

1 ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, that we mourn the passing of  
2 Carolyn A. Rush, and extend our sincere condolences to her  
3 family, friends, and all who knew and loved her; and be it  
4 further

5       RESOLVED, That a suitable copy of this resolution be  
6 presented to the family of Carolyn Rush as an expression of our  
7 deepest sympathy.