



SR1294

LRB100 17426 MST 32594 r

1

SENATE RESOLUTION

2

WHEREAS, The members of the Illinois Senate are saddened to learn of the death of Ernest Robert "Ernie" Jenkins, who passed away on January 2, 2018; and

3

4

5

WHEREAS, Ernie Jenkins was born in Wayside, Mississippi to Willie Jenkins and Corenia Dukes Watson on December 30, 1929; he attended Bowman High School and graduated from Philander Smith College with a Bachelor of Science in Psychology; he served in the United States Air Force and completed the requirements for a Master of Social Work at George Williams College, now Aurora University; he married Gloria J. Jenkins; and

6

7

8

9

10

11

12

13

WHEREAS, Ernie Jenkins started working as a group worker for a branch of Chicago Youth Centers in 1956; he began his career by organizing local communities, focusing on addressing issues resulting from the problem of street gang violence and related inner-city problems; during the late 60s, he became involved with the National Training Laboratory (NTL) and became a sensitivity (human relations) trainer; he eventually became an independent consultant to management and a much sought after voice on related issues; he was retained by the Daniel D. Howard Association as a senior consultant for nearly 10 years and conducted marketing research and human relations training

14

15

16

17

18

19

20

21

22

23

1 throughout the United States and for several key institutions
2 in the City of Chicago; and

3 WHEREAS, Ernie Jenkins later served as Executive Director
4 for Programs West YMCA, Austin YMCA, and the Southside YMCA,
5 the latter of which he was instrumental in building; he joined
6 the staff of the YMCA of Metropolitan Chicago in November of
7 1971; his major emphasis was on organizing community groups for
8 self-help purposes; during his tenure as Vice President for
9 Community Development, he co-founded the Westside Association
10 for Community Action (WACA), where he served as CEO until 2009
11 after "Passing the Torch" to his daughters in 2008; and

12 WHEREAS, Ernie Jenkins received numerous honors and
13 awards, including Mt. Sinai Hospital's Distinguished
14 Afro-American Man of Distinction, Frontiers International's
15 Man of the Year Award, the Community Service Award from the
16 South Side Help Center, the Joe Puntill Award from the Illinois
17 Collaboration on Youth, the National Child Labor Committee
18 Lewis Hine Award for Professional Service to Children and
19 Youth, the Blackbook Award which honors one of ten outstanding
20 businessmen and professionals, the Passing the Torch Award from
21 the Black United Fund of Illinois, the Distinguished Service
22 Award from the George Williams College Alumni Association, the
23 Man of the Year Award from Philander Smith College, and a host
24 of other distinguished accomplishments and accolades; and

1 WHEREAS, Ernie Jenkins was a member of the Chicago Temple
2 First United Methodist Church, the Sinai Community Institute,
3 the Illinois Collaboration on Youth (ICOY), the Illinois Health
4 Facilities Planning Board, the National Association of Social
5 Workers, and the Lawndale Business and Local Development
6 Corporation; he was a member and founder of the Chicago Rat
7 Pack; and

8 WHEREAS, Ernie Jenkins was preceded in death by his wife,
9 Gloria; and

10 WHEREAS, Ernie Jenkins is survived by his daughters, Gloria
11 Corene Jenkins and Lola Jean Jenkins; therefore, be it

12 RESOLVED, BY THE SENATE OF THE ONE HUNDREDTH GENERAL
13 ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, that we mourn the passing of
14 Ernest Robert "Ernie" Jenkins, and extend our sincere
15 condolences to his family, friends, and all who knew and loved
16 him; and be it further

17 RESOLVED, That a suitable copy of this resolution be
18 presented to the family of Ernie Jenkins as an expression of
19 our deepest sympathy.