



HR0794

LRB101 20948 MST 70957 r

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HOUSE RESOLUTION

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WHEREAS, The members of the Illinois House of Representatives are saddened to learn of the death of Willie Mae Hopson of Peoria, who passed away on February 22, 2020; and

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WHEREAS, Willie Mae Hopson was born in Cruger, Mississippi to Willie and Ellen (Randle) Gordon on October 22, 1935; she was educated in the Mississippi and Peoria public school systems; she married Charlie B. Thomas in 1953; after his passing, she married Waymon H. Harper Sr. on December 7, 1958; after his passing, she married Artis Hopson in 1982; and

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WHEREAS, Willie Mae Hopson's early jobs included being a candy striper and working in the preemie center at OSF (St. Francis Hospital); in 1995, she retired from her administrative duties at Caterpillar to care for her mother; and

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WHEREAS, Willie Mae Hopson was politically active and served many years as an election judge; twice, she visited the White House, and she attended President Barack Obama's second inauguration; and

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WHEREAS, For 70 years, Willie Mae Hopson was a dedicated member of New Morning Star Missionary Baptist Church; she served as former Annual Calendar Tea Chair and worked with the

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1 culinary staff, Deaconess Board, Mother's Council, One Church,
2 One Child Foster Care Program, Church Missions, and Helping
3 Hands Committee; she visited the sick and, through the
4 Mentorship Ministry, shared her guidance; and

5 WHEREAS, Willie Mae Hopson was an avid bowler and finished
6 a stellar bowling career of 46 years; her culinary skill-set
7 was unrivaled; in the neighborhood, she was revered as a
8 village mom; she was the "Queen of Clean" and hosted annual
9 yard sales and Super Bowl parties; she was a classy lady when
10 it came to travel and was a jet-setter; and

11 WHEREAS, Willie Mae Hopson loved to garden and possessed a
12 green thumb; during the spring and summer months, she would be
13 on the fish banks laughing with her sons and buddies; her
14 weekly fish fry always brought family and friends together; she
15 loved watching the Steve Harvey Show, Family Feud, Wheel of
16 Fortune, Rachel Maddow, and Judge Judy; she enjoyed completing
17 crossword puzzles, and her happy place was relaxing on Martha's
18 Vineyard; and

19 WHEREAS, Willie Mae Hopson was preceded in death by her
20 first husband, Charlie; her second husband, Waymon; her
21 parents; and her brother, J.P. (Buck) Gordon; and

22 WHEREAS, Willie Mae Hopson is survived by her husband of 38

1 years, Artis Hopson; her daughters, Mae Catherine Godhigh,
2 Wanda F. Thomas, Vachon K. (Thaddeus) Harper Young, and Nadine
3 Hopson Redmond; her sons, Charles D. Thomas, Andre' A. Harper,
4 Waymon H. (Angela) Harper Jr., and Sean (Cyrrie) Hopson;
5 numerous grandchildren, great-grandchildren, other family, and
6 friends; her sister-in-loves, Freida Gordon, Georgia (Dimp)
7 Gordon Little, Geneva Randle King, Helen Scott, Sophia Woods,
8 and Mary Ann King; her special bowling buddy and niece, Imogene
9 (Gordon) Simmons; and her special Godson, Antwine Freeman;
10 therefore, be it

11 RESOLVED, BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE
12 HUNDRED FIRST GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, that
13 we mourn the passing of Willie Mae Hopson and extend our
14 sincere condolences to her family, friends, and all who knew
15 and loved her; and be it further

16 RESOLVED, That a suitable copy of this resolution be
17 presented to the family of Willie Mae Hopson as an expression
18 of our deepest sympathy.