



SR1189

LRB101 15696 MST 65051 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 Robert Earl "Bob" Trotter, who passed away on November 21, 2019; and

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WHEREAS, Bob Trotter was born on November 30, 1955; he contracted polio at nine months but never let that stop him; he graduated from Spaulding High School and from the University of Illinois, where he received his bachelor's degree in therapeutic recreation and starred for the Gizz Kids as a forward all four years; he received his varsity letter in 1978; he went on to earn a master's degree in occupational therapy; and

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WHEREAS, Bob Trotter began working for the Therapeutic Recreation Department at Oak Forest Hospital of Cook County; after a few years, he moved into a similar position at the Rehabilitation Institute of Chicago (RIC), where he developed its wheelchair sports program; he developed the city's first youth wheelchair basketball team, the RIC Dawgs, and the first tournaments for youth in the mid-1980s; he was instrumental in the development of the Inaugural Junior National Wheelchair Basketball Tournament in Munster, Indiana in 1993; and

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WHEREAS, Bob Trotter's post-collegiate playing career

1 spanned over 15 years with the Chicago Pacemakers; the Chicago
2 Sun-Times and the Chicago Morning Defender followed his games
3 and named him athlete of the year; and

4 WHEREAS, Bob Trotter was the father of wheelchair
5 basketball in Chicago and the State of Illinois and a great
6 friend of the National Wheelchair Basketball Association
7 (NWBA); his efforts in developing opportunities for youth with
8 disabilities laid the foundation for the NWBA Junior Division;
9 because of his efforts, many alumni of his program earned a
10 college degree and went on to rewarding careers; he was
11 inducted into the NWBA Intercollegiate Division Hall of Fame in
12 2003; he was a gregarious, giving person and used his personal
13 charm, wit, and humor to overcome any obstacle when it came to
14 ensuring that inner-city kids and young adults would have the
15 opportunity to play wheelchair basketball; from 1982 to 2002,
16 everyone in Chicago who played or coached wheelchair basketball
17 was touched in some positive way by his presence; and

18 WHEREAS, Bob Trotter was affectionately known as "Uncle
19 Bobby"; he enjoyed camping, sports, and a libation now and
20 then; he was baptized at the Soul Reviving Church and joined
21 the Sweet Holy Spirit Church in 1982; and

22 WHEREAS, Bob Trotter was preceded in death by his nephew,
23 Allen Willis II; and

1 WHEREAS, Bob Trotter is survived by his sister, Constance;
2 his brothers, Pastor Ronald (Marilyn) and Bishop Larry D.
3 Trotter; his cousin, Arthur; his adopted sisters, Dianne
4 Clemmons and Gloria Robinson; his aunt, Ada Brown; and his
5 nephews and nieces, Latrice Inez, Laurice Deymein, Javon Denen,
6 Antwan, Brandi Lavcretia, Larry D. Trotter II, Jolie, Joie,
7 Robbin (Tremaine) Nicole, Jaliel, Tianna, Philip, and
8 Tiashawn; therefore, be it

9 RESOLVED, BY THE SENATE OF THE ONE HUNDRED FIRST GENERAL
10 ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, that we mourn the passing of
11 Robert Earl "Bob" Trotter and extend our sincere condolences to
12 his family, friends, and all who knew and loved him; and be it
13 further

14 RESOLVED, That a suitable copy of this resolution be
15 presented to the family of Bob Trotter as an expression of our
16 deepest sympathy.