



HR0403

LRB103 32803 MST 62607 r

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HOUSE RESOLUTION

2 WHEREAS, The members of the Illinois House of
3 Representatives are saddened to learn of the death of Devola
4 Mae Johnson; and

5 WHEREAS, Devola Johnson was born to Andrew Jackson and
6 Thelma Hampton in Chicago Heights on June 16, 1939; she
7 committed to her faith at an early age; she attended
8 Washington Elementary School in Chicago Heights, where she
9 began her love for helping people and caring for children; and

10 WHEREAS, Devola Johnson married William "Bill" Jones, and
11 their family settled in Ford Heights, where they fought
12 through extreme hardship in one of the poorest communities in
13 the South Suburbs and raised eight of their children in
14 addition to seven other children at their 918 East 15th Street
15 home; after her husband's tragic passing in the winter of
16 1986, she fought to care for her family, which included caring
17 for her grandchildren and her sister Stella's children, Sharon
18 and Robin Hampton; she was assisted by her daughter, Christel,
19 and they raised 13 children while living in a three-bedroom
20 apartment and surviving on one income; she worked nights and
21 cared for the children during the day; she moved her entire
22 family out of Ford Heights due to increasing violence, which
23 saved her family and allowed them to become the men and women

1 they are today; and

2 WHEREAS, Devola Johnson became a nurse at a young age and
3 later acquired the necessary skills to become a certified
4 nurse's assistant (CNA), and she provided excellent care to
5 patients and their families; her nursing career started at the
6 Glenwood Rehab Facility and continued at Woodside
7 Rehabilitation, also known as Bria Rehabilitation, in South
8 Chicago Heights; she retired from nursing in 2001; and

9 WHEREAS, Devola Johnson was proud to celebrate alongside
10 her son, Thaddeus Monteleone Jones, upon his election to the
11 Calumet City Council in 1997, where he became the first
12 African American alderman in the 100-year history of Calumet
13 City and later was elected as the city's first African
14 American mayor in 2021; she moved her family to Calumet City,
15 becoming a part of the Calumet City community and continuing
16 her passion for teaching and working with children; and

17 WHEREAS, Devola Johnson left her mark on various
18 organizations and elected officials, including Thornton
19 Township Supervisor Frank Zuccarelli; and

20 WHEREAS, Devola Johnson was affectionately known as "The
21 Mother of Children"; she nurtured and raised many generations
22 of children, including her own in addition to nieces and

1 nephews, grandchildren, great-grandchildren, and countless
2 other children in the family; she will be remembered for her
3 dedication to her family; and

4 WHEREAS, Devola Johnson was preceded in death by her
5 parents; her brothers, Albert Wynn and Charles Wynn; her
6 children, Bertha "Tuttie" Johnson and Willie (Sherry) Johnson;
7 and her best friend and sister, Evelyn Powell; and

8 WHEREAS, Devola Johnson is survived by her children and
9 their families, Antoine (Wilma) Johnson, Barbara Jean Jones
10 (Kenny Johnson, Rodney Jones, Reggie Jones, and Demetrius
11 Johnson), Willie "Kazoo" Johnson (Brittany Johnson and Reba
12 Johnson), Andre Johnson (Pierre Johnson, Andre Johnson Jr.,
13 and Shemia Johnson), Christel R. Johnson (Shanall, Shaquania
14 Ward, and Gentry Johnson), Thaddeus (Saprina) Jones (Thaddeus
15 Monteleone "Monte" Jones Jr. and Preston Jones), Jasmine Jones
16 (Isiah Jones, Caleb Jones, and Joy Jones); her brother, E.
17 Henry "Pee Wee" Hampton; and a host of nieces and nephews and
18 their families; therefore, be it

19 RESOLVED, BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE
20 HUNDRED THIRD GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, that
21 we mourn the passing of Devola Mae Johnson and extend our
22 sincere condolences to her family, friends, and all who knew
23 and loved her; and be it further

1 RESOLVED, That a suitable copy of this resolution be
2 presented to the family of Devola Johnson as an expression of
3 our deepest sympathy.