



HR0530

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1

HOUSE RESOLUTION

2 WHEREAS, The members of the Illinois House of
3 Representatives are saddened to learn of the death of Rev. Dr.
4 Clifford Tyler, who passed away on November 19, 2023; and

5 WHEREAS, Rev. Tyler was born in Flint Hill, Virginia to
6 Clifford Sr. and Annie Bell (Roberts) Tyler on August 31,
7 1924, the second oldest of seven siblings along with Lutitia
8 Addison, James Tyler, Willia Mae Tyler, Georgia Chunn, Frances
9 Graham, and Pauline Green; he attended elementary school in
10 Flint Hill, and after seventh grade, he attended school in
11 Manassas, Virginia; and

12 WHEREAS, Rev. Tyler returned home after school and worked
13 with his father as a mechanic; he then moved to Pittsburgh,
14 Pennsylvania and worked at American Steel & Wire; at the age of
15 19, he and his cousin, James, enlisted in the United States
16 Army on June 3, 1943; he served in the Air Force as an aviation
17 engineer during World War II and was honorably discharged on
18 February 19, 1946; and

19 WHEREAS, Rev. Tyler returned to the state of Virginia,
20 where he later met and married Bertha Alsberry; he became
21 father to her three children, Francis, Ruth, and Henry; he
22 moved his family to Chicago in 1953; one of his first jobs was

1 working with Perillo Automotives; he then became a mechanic
2 for the United States Post Office; and

3 WHEREAS, Rev. Tyler answered the call to ministry in 1957;
4 prior to going into ministry, he served as a deacon at his
5 church; he was asked to be the assistant pastor at First
6 Timothy Missionary Baptist Church in 1958; and

7 WHEREAS, Rev. Tyler met Lenora Mason when they both served
8 as delegates at the Progressive National Baptist Convention;
9 they married on December 4, 1960 and had two daughters, Alisa
10 and Sheila; and

11 WHEREAS, Rev. Tyler was installed as pastor of First
12 Timothy on April 28, 1968; he graduated from the Moody Bible
13 Institute in 1972 with a bachelor's degree in theology, and he
14 worked as a training and development coordinator in the
15 Practical Christian Ministries Department; eventually, he
16 became an instructor at Moody; he received a master's degree
17 in education from Northeastern University in Chicago and
18 continued his studies at Northern Baptist Theological
19 Seminary; he left his full-time position with the Moody Bible
20 Institute in 1981 to become the full-time pastor of First
21 Timothy Baptist Church; he was installed on January 26, 1982;
22 and

1 WHEREAS, Rev. Tyler received an honorary doctorate from
2 the Chicago Baptist Institute (CBI); during his more than 20
3 years of working at CBI, he served as a instructor, trustee,
4 board chairman, vice president, and president; he also served
5 as a chaplain for the Cook County Juvenile Detention Center;
6 and

7 WHEREAS, Rev. Tyler married Lois Scott in 2002; and

8 WHEREAS, Rev. Tyler's ministries extended to St. Louis,
9 Wisconsin, Florida, Nebraska, Virginia, New York, Trinidad,
10 and Kenya; and

11 WHEREAS, Rev. Tyler was proud of his Native American
12 heritage; he served on the board of directors for the
13 Christian Indian Ministries and the Native American Bible
14 Academy in Ringold, Oklahoma; and

15 WHEREAS, Rev. Tyler married Lela Hicks in October of 2004;
16 and

17 WHEREAS, Rev. Tyler held many leadership positions at the
18 state and national level, which included, president of the
19 Progressive Baptist State Convention of Illinois, organizer
20 and president of the Department of State Presidents of the
21 Progressive National Baptist Convention (PNBC), and president

1 of the PNBC Midwest Region Congress of Christian Education;
2 his professional affiliations included, the Chicago Baptist
3 Association, the Baptist Minister's Union of Chicago, the
4 Baptist Pastors Conference, the Progressive Baptist District
5 Association, the Baptist State Convention of Illinois, Inc.,
6 the Union District Baptist Association, the Evangelical
7 Theological Society, and the Light Bearers Association of
8 America, Inc.; and

9 WHEREAS, Rev. Tyler became pastor emeritus upon retiring
10 in 2013, after 45 years of serving as pastor; and

11 WHEREAS, Rev. Tyler received numerous awards for
12 leadership and dedicated services; he loved to cook, garden,
13 read his Bible, fish, and hunt; and

14 WHEREAS, Rev. Tyler was preceded in death by his parents,
15 his wives, his brothers, his sisters, and two stepchildren;
16 and

17 WHEREAS, Rev. Tyler is survived by his daughters, Alisa,
18 and Sheila; his stepdaughter, Ruth; his sister, Pauline; his
19 grandchildren, Robert Jr. (Vondee), Kawiana, Jamelle
20 (Derrick), Arianna, Morriah, and Shannon; four
21 great-grandchildren; the First Timothy church family; and
22 numerous relatives and friends whom he loved dearly;

1 therefore, be it

2 RESOLVED, BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE
3 HUNDRED THIRD GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, that
4 we mourn the passing of Rev. Dr. Clifford Tyler and extend our
5 sincere condolences to his family, friends, and all who knew
6 and loved him; and be it further

7 RESOLVED, That a suitable copy of this resolution be
8 presented to the family of Rev. Tyler as an expression of our
9 deepest sympathy.