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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 Cheryl F. Green, Ph.D., who passed away on April 23, 2025; and

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WHEREAS, Dr. Green originally hailed from Chicago; she received her bachelor's degree in psychology from Manchester College, now Manchester University, in North Manchester, Indiana, and she earned her master's degree and her Ph.D. in Counseling Psychology from Southern Illinois University Carbondale; she also obtained several National Incident Management System certificates from the U.S. Federal Emergency Management Institute; and

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WHEREAS, Dr. Green served as the sixth president of Governors State University beginning on July 1, 2020, becoming the university's first Black president in the process; during her tenure, she built a lasting legacy of academic excellence coupled with successful accreditation while supporting the mission of Governors State University, serving as a visionary and an inspiring leader who was deeply committed to advancing programs, initiatives, and scholarship across Chicago's Southland and the State of Illinois, advocating for equity in funding and supporting social mobility; she was instrumental in fostering a campus-wide culture of inclusion and belonging,

1 dedicating significant efforts to the establishment of a  
2 number of initiatives, including the Honors College, the  
3 College of Graduate Studies, the Latinx Center, and the Social  
4 Justice Initiative Building, while also supporting a wide  
5 range of educational and community outreach activities; and

6 WHEREAS, Dr. Green led a distinguished career in higher  
7 education for more than 36 years, previously serving as vice  
8 chancellor for student affairs at the University of Wisconsin  
9 (UW) Oshkosh, interim chancellor for UW Whitewater, and  
10 assistant vice president for student affairs at Tennessee  
11 State University (TSU); before her time at TSU, she served  
12 Chicago State University in a variety of administrative and  
13 academic roles, including as director/chair of the counseling  
14 department, inaugural dean of first-year students, acting  
15 associate director of career placement, and as a tenured  
16 associate professor of counseling; she also served as the  
17 statewide representative for 2,700 faculty and staff of seven  
18 public universities in her role as grievance officer for the  
19 University Professionals of Illinois (UPI) Local 4100; and

20 WHEREAS, Dr. Green remained committed to making a  
21 difference through her service to the community, which spanned  
22 the United States and included serving on several different  
23 advisory boards or boards of directors, including the  
24 Manchester University Board of Trustees, the Association of

1 Governing Boards (ABG) Council of Presidents, the inaugural  
2 Presidential Ambassadors Council of the Association of  
3 International Education Administrators (AIEA), the Will County  
4 Center for Economic Development Board of Directors, the  
5 Southland Development Authority Board of Directors, the Howard  
6 Hughes Medical Institute STEM Grant Advisory Board of UW  
7 Madison, the Forward 50 Advisory Board for the National  
8 Association of Student and Financial Aid Administrators, and  
9 the Milwaukee-based Gift of Adoption Wisconsin Board of  
10 Directors; she was also a member of Alpha Kappa Alpha  
11 Sorority, Inc. and the Will County Black Diamond Chapter of  
12 the Top Ladies of Distinction, Inc., and she was a Silver Life  
13 Member of the National Association for the Advancement of  
14 Colored People (NAACP); and

15 WHEREAS, Dr. Green received a number of accolades,  
16 including being named to Crain Chicago Business's 2021 Notable  
17 Black Leaders and Executives list, a Woman of First  
18 Distinction by the Illinois Black Hall of Fame, one of the 2022  
19 Top 50 Women Leaders of Illinois by Women We Admire, an  
20 honorary grand marshal of the 2022 Bud Billiken Parade, and a  
21 2023 Business Leader of Color by Chicago United; she also  
22 received the 2022 Excellence in Education Award by the Central  
23 Regional Director of Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Inc. and the  
24 2023 Outstanding Commitment in Education Award by the Illinois  
25 State Treasurer; and

1       WHEREAS, Dr. Green was widely respected and admired by  
2       Governors State University students, faculty, staff,  
3       administration, the board of trustees, professional  
4       colleagues, and the broader academic community for her  
5       exceptional servant leadership, steadfast dedication, and  
6       significant contributions to higher education throughout her  
7       tenure as president; and

8       WHEREAS, Dr. Green was the mother of two adult children;  
9       therefore, be it

10       RESOLVED, BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE  
11       HUNDRED FOURTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, that  
12       we mourn the passing of Cheryl F. Green, Ph.D. and extend our  
13       sincere condolences to her family, friends, and all who knew  
14       and loved her; and be it further

15       RESOLVED, That a suitable copy of this resolution be  
16       presented to Dr. Green as an expression of our esteem and  
17       respect.