



HR0401

LRB104 13977 MST 26938 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 Arnita  
4 "Anita" Fairchild Jones, who passed away on May 15, 2025; and

5           WHEREAS, Anita Fairchild Jones was born in Chicago to  
6 Arvie and Florence Fairchild on November 9, 1957; she attended  
7 the Mason Upgrade Center and graduated from Farragut Career  
8 Academy in 1976; she married Emmett Jones Jr. in Chicago on  
9 September 16, 1978, and they spent 23 happy years together;  
10 she began attending the Chicago Business Academy to get her  
11 certification to become a certified nursing assistant in 1980;  
12 and

13           WHEREAS, Anita Fairchild Jones, throughout the 1970s and  
14 1980s, worked at Wilson's Sporting Goods, Church's Chicken,  
15 and Fun In Motion; she also worked as a certified nursing  
16 assistant at St. Anthony's Hospital; she became a foster  
17 parent in 2001 and a caregiver for her parents in 2009; and

18           WHEREAS, Anita Fairchild Jones was an entrepreneur at  
19 heart; she opened a store on Division Street in Chicago in  
20 1989, AJ's Variety Shop; she began vending at major  
21 conventions, including Today's Black Woman and the National  
22 Baptist Convention; and

1           WHEREAS, Anita Fairchild Jones was passionate about  
2 serving others and donated common everyday needs to those less  
3 fortunate at the local shelter for women and children in the  
4 late 1990s; she was also passionate about celebrating others  
5 and decided to honor women in the community who made an impact  
6 through extraordinary work and hosted the first AJ's First  
7 Ladies Walk: Fashion Extravaganza at the DuSable Museum in  
8 October 2002, where she presented awards to the "everyday"  
9 women; she also founded Free Spirit Women Unlimited; and

10           WHEREAS, Anita Fairchild Jones was baptized at New  
11 Macedonia Missionary Baptist Church at the age of 11 and later  
12 took courses at the Moody Bible Institute; she was ordained as  
13 an evangelist on December 1, 2013 and completed her degree in  
14 biblical studies on September 23, 2018; and

15           WHEREAS, Anita Fairchild Jones volunteered for several  
16 political campaigns; and

17           WHEREAS, Anita Fairchild Jones was preceded in death by  
18 her parents and her brothers, Arvie Fairchild Jr. and  
19 Cornelius Fairchild; and

20           WHEREAS, Anita Fairchild Jones is survived by her  
21 children, Monique Jones, Donisha Jones, Emmett Jones III, and

1 Anita (Clayton) Wheat; her brothers, Anthony Fairchild and  
2 Reginald Lemon; her sisters, Jeanette (Ervin) Woods and  
3 Shanell McCraney; her grandchildren, Adrian Baker Jr., Brian  
4 Baker, Xion Baker, Jordan Baker, Nyomi Jones, Elijah Jones,  
5 Emmett Jones IV, Jeremiah Jones, Aleis Wheat, Alira Wheat,  
6 Sariah Wheat, and Josiah Wheat; eight great-grandchildren; her  
7 special sisters, Roseanne Fairchild and Lois Fairchild; her  
8 spiritual sisters, Shirley Smith, Ruthshell Walker, Faith  
9 Arnold, and Georgia Gibbs; her best friend and cousin, Brenda  
10 Lindsey; and numerous nieces and nephews, cousins, and  
11 extended family; therefore, be it

12 RESOLVED, BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE  
13 HUNDRED FOURTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, that  
14 we mourn the passing of Arnita "Anita" Fairchild Jones and  
15 extend our sincere condolences to her family, friends, and all  
16 who knew and loved her; and be it further

17 RESOLVED, That a suitable copy of this resolution be  
18 presented to the family of Anita Fairchild Jones as an  
19 expression of our deepest sympathy.