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LRB104 17638 LAW 31069 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 Cornell
4 Lincoln Wright Jr., who passed away on December 25, 2025; and

5 WHEREAS, Cornell Wright was born to Cornell Wright Sr. and
6 Lois (Montgomery) Wright in Knoxville, Tennessee on July 2,
7 1938; he was raised in Knoxville, where he received his early
8 education and graduated from Austin High School; he served in
9 the United States Armed Forces during the Vietnam War; upon
10 returning from military service, he settled in Detroit,
11 Michigan, where he earned a degree in child growth and
12 development from Wayne State University; he married Barbara
13 Crooks, and they relocated to Peoria, Illinois, where they
14 built their home and raised their family; and

15 WHEREAS, Cornell Wright dedicated many years to a
16 distinguished career as a correctional officer, faithfully
17 working third shift, often through long and demanding nights;
18 during his career, he became known for his integrity, calm
19 demeanor, and strong sense of responsibility; he was also an
20 entrepreneur as the owner of Tony's Liquor, a neighborhood
21 convenience store that reflected his work ethic, independence,
22 and commitment to providing for his family; and

1 WHEREAS, Cornell Wright, in retirement, continued serving
2 his community as a substitute teacher, offering patience,
3 wisdom, and steady guidance to students, and through civic
4 engagement, taking pride in running local election polls to
5 ensure fairness, order, and respect in the democratic process;
6 and

7 WHEREAS, Cornell Wright was committed to his faith and a
8 devoted member of Mt. Zion Baptist Church, where he served as a
9 deacon and often worked behind the scenes, running the church
10 audio system to ensure that every sermon, song, and prayer was
11 heard clearly; his service was quiet, dependable, and deeply
12 appreciated by his church family; and

13 WHEREAS, Cornell Wright, affectionately known as "Tony"
14 and "Sonny", was a devoted husband, a proud father, a mentor,
15 and a public servant whose life was defined by service, faith,
16 discipline, and unwavering devotion to family and community;
17 and

18 WHEREAS, Cornell Wright was preceded in death by his
19 sister, Mary Frances Strong; and

20 WHEREAS, Cornell Wright is survived by his wife, Barbara
21 J. Wright; his children, Cornell Lincoln Wright III, Courtney
22 Wright, and Dr. Yolanda Wright-Lowry; seven grandchildren; and

1 four great-grandchildren; therefore, be it

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

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