



HR0669

LRB104 20443 RMO 33908 r

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HOUSE RESOLUTION

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WHEREAS, The members of the Illinois House of Representatives wish to congratulate Reverend Arthur S. Williams on the occasion of his 100th birthday on January 7, 2026; and

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WHEREAS, Rev. Williams is known as "Peoria's Pastor" and is a pillar of the community; he has devoted more than seven decades to faith and service, shaping lives well beyond the church walls; and

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WHEREAS, Rev. Williams was born in Arkansas on January 7, 1926; he served in the United States Army during World War II; his military service included guarding Nazi prisoners of war, enduring taunts about the racial discrimination he faced at home and in the U.S. Army with the same quiet resolve that has defined his life; and

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WHEREAS, Rev. Williams was part of the Great Migration to Peoria, where he broke barriers by becoming the first Black employee of the Peoria Housing Authority (PHA) in 1954 and the first Black member of Laborers' Local 165, earning him the nickname "the Jackie Robinson of the PHA"; further, he raised nine children and helped open doors for generations to follow; and

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1 WHEREAS, Rev. Williams found his spiritual home in Ward
2 Chapel African Methodist Episcopal (AME) Church, where he
3 taught adult Sunday school for 40 years and served as an elder
4 for more than 50 years; and

5 WHEREAS, Rev. Williams has impacted countless lives,
6 offering guidance at pivotal moments and serving as a powerful
7 example of leadership and integrity; his mission remains to
8 stay humble, serve God, and treat others right; therefore, be
9 it

10 RESOLVED, BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE
11 HUNDRED FOURTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, that
12 we congratulate Reverend Arthur S. Williams on celebrating his
13 100th birthday; and be it further

14 RESOLVED, That a suitable copy of this resolution be
15 presented to Rev. Williams as an expression of our esteem and
16 respect.