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LRB104 20959 LAW 34782 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 Larken  
4 Sharon Akins of Chicago, who passed away on January 23, 2026;  
5 and

6           WHEREAS, Larken Akins was born to Kenneth Ernest Akins Sr.  
7 and Debra J. (Walls) Akins in Chicago on December 31, 1979; she  
8 attended pre-K at Barton Elementary School, Kindergarten  
9 through third grade at Charles H. Wacker Elementary School,  
10 and fourth through eighth grade at St. Ethelreda School; she  
11 graduated from Maria Catholic High School, during which she  
12 volunteered as a candy striper at Holy Cross Hospital; she  
13 earned a Bachelor of Science in Environmental Health and  
14 Science from Illinois State University in 2002, where she  
15 worked as a resident assistant; she later earned a college  
16 diploma in 2017 and a Master of Arts in Defense and Strategic  
17 Studies from the United States Naval War College in 2020; and

18           WHEREAS, Larken Akins began her professional career as a  
19 compliance officer with the Occupational Safety and Health  
20 Administration (OSHA) under the United States Department of  
21 Labor in Missouri; she worked with the U.S. Department of  
22 Labor for 23 years until her passing; throughout her career,  
23 she was respected for her professionalism, work ethic, and

1       unwavering commitment to excellence; and

2               WHEREAS, Larken Akins was initiated into the Omicron Theta  
3       Omega Chapter of Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Incorporated in  
4       Missouri on January 16, 2005; after returning to Chicago, she  
5       transferred her membership to the Chi Omega Omega Chapter,  
6       where she diligently served for many years; during her 21-year  
7       tenure with the sorority, she served on several committees,  
8       held many leadership positions, and participated in a wide  
9       range of service projects; her final act of service was her  
10      immense dedication to chartering the first chapter of Alpha  
11      Kappa Alpha Sorority, Inc. in Ghana, West Africa, the Alpha  
12      Delta Psi Omega Chapter, on January 16, 2026; and

13              WHEREAS, Larken Akins committed to her faith at an early  
14      age while attending Englewood United Methodist Church, and she  
15      often attended Antioch Missionary Baptist Church South; her  
16      faith became a steady foundation, guiding her values, her  
17      service to others, and the way she lived with intention and  
18      grace; and

19              WHEREAS, Larken Akins was dedicated to her family, who  
20      affectionately referred to her as "Lark Lark", "Lump", "Larky  
21      Pooh", and "Lark Bird"; she was also an avid traveler who  
22      enjoyed biking, hiking, and running, completing the Chicago  
23      Marathon in 2018 and 2019; and

1           WHEREAS, Larken Akins will be remembered as a jewel with a  
2 radiant smile, a true Alpha Kappa Alpha woman whose life was  
3 marked by intention, purpose, and grace; and

4           WHEREAS, Larken Akins was preceded in death by her father;  
5 her paternal grandparents, Benjamin Franklin Akins Sr. and  
6 Ernestine (Wallace) Akins; and her maternal grandfather,  
7 Lucious Walls; and

8           WHEREAS, Larken Akins is survived by her mother; her  
9 brothers, Kenneth Ernest Akins Jr. and Matthew Darius Akins;  
10 her nieces, Aziza A. Akins and Alina A. Akins; her fiancé,  
11 Curtis Roberts; her maternal grandmother, Ethella Walls; and a  
12 host of aunts, uncles, cousins, godchildren, sorors, and  
13 friends; therefore, be it

14           RESOLVED, BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE  
15 HUNDRED FOURTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, that  
16 we mourn the passing of Larken Sharon Akins and extend our  
17 sincere condolences to her family, friends, and all who knew  
18 and loved her; and be it further

19           RESOLVED, That a suitable copy of this resolution be  
20 presented to the family of Larken Akins as an expression of our  
21 deepest sympathy.