



HR0947

LRB104 22190 ECR 38471 r

1 HOUSE RESOLUTION

2 WHEREAS, The members of the Illinois House of
3 Representatives are saddened to learn of the death of Julius
4 Collins Thomas III, who passed away on December 23, 2025; and

5 WHEREAS, Julius Thomas, the son of Julius Thomas II and
6 Marie Thomas, was born in Chicago on September 18, 1949; he
7 studied commercial lending at the American Institute of
8 Banking and political science at Central YMCA College and
9 George Williams College; and

10 WHEREAS, Julius Thomas was an entrepreneur who owned and
11 operated many business, including the Chicago Parks Marine
12 Development, through which he launched the iconic pedal boat
13 and concession rentals at the Lincoln Park Zoo in the 1980s,
14 pedal boat developments at Encanto Park in Phoenix, Arizona
15 and Freestone Park in Gilbert, Arizona, the Park Place Cafe in
16 Lincoln Park, and the Hyde Park Place Cafe; and

17 WHEREAS, Julius Thomas earned recognition from prominent
18 media outlets, including Chicago magazine, the Chicago
19 Tribune, the Chicago Sun-Times, and WGN; and

20 WHEREAS, Julius Thomas was a gifted writer, singer, and
21 poet, and his creativity reflected the depth of his spirit;

1 and

2 WHEREAS, Julius Thomas was a visionary entrepreneur and a
3 devoted family man whose impact reached far beyond the
4 communities he served, and his legacy of creativity, laughter,
5 and love will continue to inspire others; and

6 WHEREAS, Julius Thomas is survived by his children, Dr.
7 Nalo (Pastor Darrell Mitchell) Thomas Mitchell, Julia Thomas,
8 and Julius Thomas IV; three grandchildren; one
9 great-grandchild; his siblings, Grace (Rodney) Thomas White,
10 Tony Thomas, Lori (Floyd) Thomas; and a host of nieces,
11 nephews, relatives, and friends; 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 Julius Collins Thomas III and extend
15 our sincere condolences to his family, friends, and all who
16 knew and loved him; and be it further

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