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1 SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION

2 WHEREAS, Fannie Gwendolyn Jones was born in East St. Louis
3 on November 22, 1922, the youngest of six children born to the
4 union of Henry and Rosie McGee Jones; and

5 WHEREAS, Fannie Jones was a life long resident of East St.
6 Louis; she attended elementary and high school in School
7 District 189 and received a bachelor's degree at Tuskegee
8 University in Tuskegee, Alabama and her master's degree from
9 Webster University in St. Louis, Missouri; and

10 WHEREAS, Fannie Jones was one of the first Black
11 substitute teachers in District 189 and one of the youngest;
12 she taught first grade at Franklin Elementary School for many
13 years before joining the administrative staff of the district;
14 she later became program coordinator of the district's Title I
15 program until her retirement after 33 years; and

16 WHEREAS, Fannie Jones was the first African American to
17 run on a statewide ticket for an elected office as the Clerk of
18 the Illinois Supreme Court; and

19 WHEREAS, Fannie Jones was part of many civic and religious
20 groups in an effort to serve her community, including the
21 Sigma Gamma Rho Sorority, the East St. Louis Board of Election

1 Commissioners, the Democratic National Convention (1968), the
2 National Baptist Convention, the Women's Baptist General State
3 Convention, the Baptist General State Convention of Illinois,
4 the East St. Louis Cable Board, the Junior and Senior Red
5 Circle and the Young Women's League at Truelight Baptist
6 Church, Greater New Hope Baptist Church, Paramount Democratic
7 Women, the Illinois State Board of Education Library Systems,
8 the Ethele Scott Section of the National Council of Negro
9 Women, and the East St. Louis Library Board; and

10 WHEREAS, Fannie Jones was recognized for her service by
11 numerous groups, including the Pro Eight Club, the East St.
12 Louis Park District, the St. Clair County Democratic Party,
13 the Greater New Hope Baptist Church, the East St. Louis
14 Alumnae Chapter of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Southern
15 Illinois University, the New Salem District Association, the
16 Alpha Upsilon Sigma Chapter of Sigma Gamma Rho Sorority, and
17 the Illinois State Senate of the 90th General Assembly; and

18 WHEREAS, Fannie Jones served as church clerk at Truelight
19 Baptist Church for over 25 years before she joined Greater New
20 Hope Baptist Church in 1974; and

21 WHEREAS, Fannie Jones will be remembered for her life's
22 work, her dedication to humanity, and all the people whose
23 lives she touched and impacted with her wisdom; therefore, be

1 it

2 RESOLVED, BY THE SENATE OF THE ONE HUNDRED FOURTH GENERAL
3 ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, THE HOUSE OF
4 REPRESENTATIVES CONCURRING HEREIN, that we declare Illinois
5 Route 15 in East St. Louis to its intersection with Interstate
6 64 as the "Fannie Gwendolyn Jones Memorial Highway"; and be it
7 further

8 RESOLVED, That the Illinois Department of Transportation
9 is requested to erect at suitable locations, consistent with
10 State and federal regulations, appropriate plaques or signs
11 giving notice of the name "Fannie Gwendolyn Jones Memorial
12 Highway"; and be it further

13 RESOLVED, That suitable copies of this resolution be
14 presented to the family of Fannie Jones, the Mayor of East St.
15 Louis, and the Secretary of the Illinois Department of
16 Transportation.