



SR0032

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SENATE RESOLUTION

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WHEREAS, The members of the Illinois Senate are saddened to learn of the death of Dr. Obie Rush, who passed away on August 26, 2024; and

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WHEREAS, Dr. Rush was born to Johnny Sr. and Dollie Rush on December 2, 1935; he was a member of the Josey Creek Baptist Church in Starkville, Mississippi and graduated from Starkville High School; he married Nellie Kate Watts on October 4, 1954; and

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WHEREAS, Dr. Rush began his religious training at American Baptist College in Nashville, Tennessee, where he graduated cum laude with a Bachelor of Arts in 1959; he received his Master of Christian Education in 1970 and his Master of Divinity in 1971, both from Eden Theological Seminary; he received an honorary Doctorate of Divinity from Virginia Seminary and College in Lynchburg, Virginia in 1984 and an honorary Doctorate of Divinity from Eden Theological Seminary in 1988; and

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WHEREAS, Dr. Rush accepted the call to pastor in Laurel, Mississippi; he was then called to pastor at St. Paul Baptist Church in East St. Louis in November 1960 and was installed on February 18, 1961, serving almost 50 years; he retired in 2010

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1 and was named pastor emeritus; and

2 WHEREAS, Dr. Rush had to meet several challenges
3 throughout his pastoral career, including the church being
4 destroyed by fires and floods; he had a vision of erecting an
5 apartment complex for seniors, and the Rush Senior Gardens
6 Apartment Complex was dedicated on January 24, 2010; and

7 WHEREAS, Dr. Rush was very active in his community and
8 participated in several civic organizations; he was the
9 founder of the Ministers United Against Human Suffering
10 Organization in East St. Louis, where they provided emergency
11 shelter to those in need; he was a board member for the
12 American Baptist College in Nashville, Tennessee and a board
13 member of the Ministerial Alliance of East St. Louis; he was a
14 part of the Metro-East Baptist Association; and

15 WHEREAS, Dr. Rush served as past moderator of the
16 Woodriver District Association; he was the past president of
17 Ministers United Against Human Suffering, the Ministerial
18 Alliance, and the NAACP of the East St. Louis Chapter; he
19 served as co-chair of the American Cancer Drive; he was a
20 former board member of the Civil Rights Commission of East St.
21 Louis and St. Clair County; he has also served on the East St.
22 Louis District School Board #189 and was a former board member
23 of the East St. Louis Public Library; and

1 WHEREAS, Dr. Rush was preceded in death by his wife,
2 Nellie; and

3 WHEREAS, Dr. Rush is survived by his brother, Johnny Rush
4 Sr.; his daughters, Robin Hammonds, Jacqueline Davis
5 (Michael), and Felicia Rush-Taylor; his sons, Gary Gaston and
6 Shawn Taylor; his grandsons, Sean Taylor and Cole Obie Taylor;
7 his granddaughters, Tiffany (Malik) Murphy, Brittany (Pierre)
8 Nelson, Briana Davis, and Jada West; his great-grandchildren,
9 Jaylin, Nicholas, Carson, Carley B., Kyrie, and Kaiden; his
10 special nephew, Gerald Rush; and numerous nieces, nephews,
11 family members, church members, and friends; therefore, be it

12 RESOLVED, BY THE SENATE OF THE ONE HUNDRED FOURTH GENERAL
13 ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, that we mourn the passing of
14 Dr. Obie Rush and extend our sincere condolences to his
15 family, friends, and all who knew and loved him; and be it
16 further

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