



SR0449

LRB104 14043 LAW 27175 r

1 SENATE RESOLUTION

2 WHEREAS, The members of the Illinois Senate are saddened
3 to learn of the death of Ruth Earl Hudson Nichols, who passed
4 away on May 27, 2025; and

5 WHEREAS, Ruth Hudson Nichols was born to Percy and Marie
6 Hudson in Canton, Mississippi on October 5, 1936; at the age of
7 six, she and her family moved to Chicago; she committed to her
8 faith at the age of nine under the pastorate of her
9 grandfather, the late Rev. Clarence Buckner, the founding
10 pastor of Pleasant Gift Missionary Baptist Church; she
11 attended Raymond Elementary School and the Dunbar Trade
12 School, where she majored in dressmaking and graduated at the
13 age of 16 in 1953; she furthered her education at Cortez Peters
14 Business School and later at Wilson Junior College, now
15 Kennedy-King College; she married Rev. Howard Sanders Nichols
16 Sr. on June 19, 1955, and they had five children while building
17 a union rooted in faith, service, and shared ministry for 59
18 years; and

19 WHEREAS, Ruth Hudson Nichols began her career in office
20 administration in the private sector and worked for such firms
21 as Leo Rose and Joe Lipke & Sons; she ultimately joined the
22 Chicago Public School (CPS) system, beginning and concluding
23 her career at her alma mater, Dunbar Vocational High School,

1 where she first served as a program office clerk and retired as
2 principal secretary to Dr. Floyd Banks; she also contributed
3 her talents to Frazier, Ryder, Robert A. Black, and McCorkle
4 Elementary Schools and the Dewey Child Parent Center; and

5 WHEREAS, Ruth Hudson Nichols was deeply committed to her
6 faith and the work of the ministry, serving as the devoted
7 first lady of Pleasant Gift Missionary Baptist Church with
8 dignity and warmth; she further served her church as youth
9 director, choir member, and fundraiser queen in the Women's
10 Department; during her tenure, she formed a singing group with
11 her daughters, The Nichols Singers, a music ministry that
12 became a powerful extension of the family's evangelistic work
13 while accompanying Rev. Nichols across the city and beyond;
14 and

15 WHEREAS, Ruth Hudson Nichols extended her contributions to
16 community and ministry as general and financial secretary of
17 the Track Down Crusade of Christ and the Better Citizens
18 Advancement Organization, both federally recognized 501(c)(3)
19 nonprofit organizations; she and her husband, who served as
20 executive director, built ministries and programs through
21 these organizations that transformed lives, empowered
22 families, and expanded opportunities in both spiritual and
23 civic arenas; and

1 WHEREAS, Ruth Hudson Nichols served as youth president of
2 both the Progressive Baptist District Association and the
3 Progressive Illinois Baptist State Convention; she was a
4 respected member of the Minister's Unit and a beloved
5 instructor within the Congress; she founded the W.W. Taylor
6 Institute Congress for Christian Education on both the local
7 and state level, and she was also a founding member of the Miss
8 Christian America Pageant; and

9 WHEREAS, Ruth Hudson Nichols was a genuine person who was
10 known for her grace, patience, compassion, and skills in the
11 culinary arts; she taught by example, gave selflessly, and
12 inspired others to rise with purpose, and she leaves behind a
13 legacy of family, community, leadership, and spiritual
14 strength; and

15 WHEREAS, Ruth Hudson Nichols was preceded in death by her
16 husband; and

17 WHEREAS, Ruth Hudson Nichols is survived by her children,
18 Minister Debra M. Nichols, Rev. Shari A. (Curtis Sweat Jr.)
19 Nichols Sweat, Rev. Krista J. (Gregory Alston Sr.) Nichols
20 Alston, Marva Ruth Nichols, and Howard S. Nichols Jr.; 11
21 grandchildren; two great-grandchildren; her siblings, Hattie
22 M. Hudson White, Clarence (Betty) Hudson Sr., Robert Hudson,
23 Charles Hudson Sr., and Donald (Kathryn) Hudson Sr.; her

1 sisters-in-law, Dorothy Hudson, Irma Hudson, and Bertha
2 Hudson; and a host of nieces, nephews, cousins, adopted sons
3 and daughters, extended family, church members, and dear
4 friends; therefore, be it

5 RESOLVED, BY THE SENATE OF THE ONE HUNDRED FOURTH GENERAL
6 ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, that we mourn the passing of
7 Ruth Earl Hudson Nichols and extend our sincere condolences to
8 her family, friends, and all who knew and loved her; and be it
9 further

10 RESOLVED, That a suitable copy of this resolution be
11 presented to the family of Ruth Hudson Nichols as an
12 expression of our deepest sympathy.