



SR0568

LRB104 16217 LAW 29601 r

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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 Riley L. Owens III, the former Mayor of Centreville, who passed away on September 30, 2025; and

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WHEREAS, Riley Owens III received a bachelor's degree in geography from Southern Illinois University Edwardsville, and he was a lifelong member of Kappa Alpha Psi Fraternity; he served in the United States Air Force; and

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WHEREAS, Riley Owens III was a five-term Mayor of Centreville, and his first mayoral term marked the beginning of a lifetime of advocacy; he became a founding member of the National Conference of Black Mayors, underscoring his commitment to collaboration and urban development; and

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WHEREAS, Riley Owens III's leadership extended beyond Centreville; he chaired the East St. Louis Area Development Gateway Coordinating Council, and he served on the board of the Katherine Dunham Center for Arts and Humanities in East St. Louis and on the 50th Anniversary of the Brown v. Board of Education Commission, promoting justice and equality; and

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WHEREAS, Among his many achievements, Riley Owens III was especially proud of his presidential appointments, which

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1 included serving as a local board member of the Selective
2 Service System for Illinois in 1999 and later as a district
3 appeal board member in 2014; over the years, he earned the
4 respect of individuals across the political spectrum and had
5 the honor of meeting Presidents Barack Obama, Jimmy Carter,
6 and George W. Bush; and

7 WHEREAS, Riley Owens III was a familiar face in the Tulane
8 Terrace neighborhood of Centreville, where he lived with his
9 family until his passing; he was often seen biking through the
10 streets or walking to his parents' home for a morning cup of
11 coffee; and

12 WHEREAS, Riley Owens III found joy in creating work that
13 celebrated his African American heritage, including carving
14 masks, flutes, and other works; and

15 WHEREAS, Riley Owens III was a pillar of his community who
16 lived his life defined by public service; he leaves behind a
17 lasting legacy of leadership and devotion to the people of
18 Centreville and the greater region; therefore, be it

19 RESOLVED, BY THE SENATE OF THE ONE HUNDRED FOURTH GENERAL
20 ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, that we mourn the passing of
21 Riley L. Owens III, the former Mayor of Centreville, and
22 extend our sincere condolences to his family, friends, and all

1 who knew and loved him; and be it further

2 RESOLVED, That a suitable copy of this resolution be
3 presented to the family of Riley Owens III as an expression of
4 our deepest sympathy.