



SR0598

LRB104 18078 ECR 31517 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 Bishop Dr. Claude Porter, who passed away on December 30, 2025; and

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WHEREAS, Bishop Dr. Porter, the son of James and Corean Porter, was born in Memphis, Tennessee on January 21, 1937; he married Earnestine Walker; he was awarded a doctorate degree in 2002; and

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WHEREAS, Bishop Dr. Porter entered the ministry at the Greater White Stone Missionary Baptist Church in Memphis in 1960; later that year, he was ordained and began serving as assistant pastor at Greater Progressive Missionary Baptist Church in Chicago; he founded Proviso Missionary Baptist Church in Maywood in 1972, where he was consecrated and installed as Bishop in 2005, retiring as senior pastor in 2016; and

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WHEREAS, Bishop Dr. Porter founded the Proviso-Leyden Council for Community Action, Inc. (PLCCA) in 1968; as Founder, President, and CEO, he led the Maywood-based nonprofit to become a cornerstone of community support that serves over 30,000 individuals and families annually across 26 municipalities in the Proviso and Leyden Townships, the

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1 broader Chicago metropolitan area, and throughout Illinois,
2 operating with a budget exceeding \$9 million and overseeing
3 properties valued at approximately \$9.1 million; and

4 WHEREAS, Bishop Dr. Porter was also the Founder and
5 Chairman Emeritus of the Proviso Township Ministerial Alliance
6 Network (PTMAN), a founding member and chairman of Interfaith
7 Illinois, the Founder and President of the Porter Family
8 Center, the president of both Maywood Phoenix Homes and
9 Goodell Place Homes, and a member of the Maywood Rotary since
10 1972; and

11 WHEREAS, Bishop Dr. Porter received numerous awards and
12 honors, including the Pioneer Award from HHS Head Start, the
13 Jefferson Award from Honoring Chicago's Unsung Heroes, the
14 King Legacy Award from American Family Insurance, the Illinois
15 Public Health Emergency Preparedness Award, the Father of the
16 Community Award from the Rainbow PUSH Coalition, the Community
17 Award from Zeta Phi Beta Sorority, Inc., and the MLK Keeper of
18 the Dream Award from the Gospel Tribune, among others; his
19 lifetime of service was further honored by the Village of
20 Maywood with the creation of a commemorative street sign at
21 the intersection of 5th and Madison; and

22 WHEREAS, Bishop Dr. Porter was a religious leader, an
23 organizer, a nonprofit executive, and a mentor who left an

1 indelible mark on countless individuals across Illinois and
2 the country; and

3 WHEREAS, Bishop Dr. Porter was the husband of Earnestine
4 Porter; the father of the late Debra Ann Strickland, Beverly
5 Smith, and Claudette Harrell; the father-in-law of Jerome
6 Strickland Sr. and Milton Smith; the grandfather of seven; and
7 the great-grandfather of ten; therefore, be it

8 RESOLVED, BY THE SENATE OF THE ONE HUNDRED FOURTH GENERAL
9 ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, that we mourn the passing of
10 Bishop Dr. Claude Porter and extend our sincere condolences to
11 his family, friends, and all who knew and loved him; and be it
12 further

13 RESOLVED, That a suitable copy of this resolution be
14 presented to the family of Bishop Dr. Claude Porter as an
15 expression of our deepest sympathy.