



SR0746

LRB104 21670 RMO 37213 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 Barbara Deer of Chicago, who passed away on April 14, 2026; and

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WHEREAS, Barbara Deer, the daughter of Geraline and Carl Walton, was born on February 22, 1975; she committed to her faith at an early age at First Baptist Church and later became a member of Living Word Christian Center; she earned a Bachelor of Science in Communication Disorders from Jackson State University and a Master of Arts in Speech-Language Pathology from the University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign; and

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WHEREAS, Barbara Deer was a licensed speech-language pathologist who helped clients find their voices and left an impact on many families; she expanded her role when she became chief executive officer of Metamorphosis Health LLC, where she championed holistic wellness and empowered others to pursue healthier, more balanced lives; and

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WHEREAS, Barbara Deer served as executive director of Juneteenth Illinois, continuing the vision of community development and cultural celebration she shared with her late husband, Cook County Commissioner Dennis Deer; and

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1 WHEREAS, Barbara Deer gave generously of her time, always
2 seeking to uplift and inspire others, and was a proud member of
3 Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority Incorporated, a charter member of
4 the Top Ladies of Distinction Chicago West Loop Chapter, and
5 an active participant in numerous community organizations; and

6 WHEREAS, Barbara Deer cherished her roles as a wife,
7 mother, and grandmother above all, sharing 27 years of
8 marriage with her beloved late husband and being a devoted
9 mother to three children as well as a loving grandmother to one
10 grandchild; and

11 WHEREAS, Barbara Deer was a woman of strength, faith, and
12 unwavering commitment to her family and community who led with
13 grace and lived with purpose; her legacy will continue through
14 the lives she touched, the community she strengthened, and the
15 family she so dearly loved; and

16 WHEREAS, Barbara Deer was preceded in death by her father;
17 her husband; and her son, Kaleb Deer; and

18 WHEREAS, Barbara Deer is survived by her mother; her
19 children, Kanaan Deer and Trinity Deer; her twin sister, Carol
20 Walton; her brother, Carl Walton Jr.; her sister, Betty
21 Garner; her granddaughter, Kamora Deer; her pet, Reese; and a

1 host of extended family, friends, and community members;
2 therefore, be it

3 RESOLVED, BY THE SENATE OF THE ONE HUNDRED FOURTH GENERAL
4 ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, that we mourn the passing of
5 Barbara Deer and extend our sincere condolences to her family,
6 friends, and all who knew and loved her; and be it further

7 RESOLVED, That a suitable copy of this resolution be
8 presented to the family of Barbara Deer as an expression of our
9 deepest sympathy.