



SR0805

LRB104 21341 ECR 36206 r

1 SENATE RESOLUTION

2 WHEREAS, The members of the Illinois Senate are saddened
3 to learn of the death of Raymond Smith Jr., who passed away on
4 March 2, 2026; and

5 WHEREAS, Raymond Smith was born to John Raymond and Ruth
6 Jimola Smith in Etta, Mississippi on February 18, 1935; he
7 graduated from Liberty Hill School in 1958, and he later
8 earned several trade certifications; he married Mattie Mae
9 Brown on June 6, 1959, and they had six children, later raising
10 four additional children and fostering more than 25 children;
11 and

12 WHEREAS, Raymond Smith, after moving to Chicago, Illinois
13 in 1960, worked as a maintenance worker at Photo Press in
14 Broadview, where he was later promoted to a binary press
15 controller; he then worked at International Paper, retiring in
16 June 2000; and

17 WHEREAS, Raymond Smith was a member of the Greater
18 Bethlehem Healing Temple, where he served on the usher board,
19 was ordained as a deacon, and was appointed to the board of
20 trustees; he later became a member of House of Prayer
21 Apostolic Church, where he continued to serve as an active
22 deacon; and

1 WHEREAS, Raymond Smith regularly volunteered at Catholic
2 Charities, and he and his wife were influential volunteers in
3 the Kankakee community for 17 years, with both being named
4 Volunteer of the Year by the Daily Journal of Kankakee; and

5 WHEREAS, Raymond Smith was an avid gardener, always
6 sharing his bountiful harvest with friends, neighbors, and the
7 community; and

8 WHEREAS, Raymond Smith was a righteous, hardworking, and
9 dedicated man, husband, father, and grandfather, and he will
10 be remembered as a pillar of the community; and

11 WHEREAS, Raymond Smith was preceded in death by his
12 parents; his son, Draper; and his siblings, Jesse, Lois Anne,
13 Sallie, and James; and

14 WHEREAS, Raymond Smith is survived by his wife of 66 years
15 and eight months, Mattie Mae Smith; his children, Raymond
16 Franklin III, Phyllis Jordan, Cabrini, Yolanda (Antoine)
17 Sharon, April, Jason, and Ronell; his grandchildren, Destiny
18 Lee, T'ania Jordan, Taylor Smith, Anaiyah Jordan, Myles
19 Parrish, Kaleb Smith, Phillip Jordan, Daniel Concepcion,
20 Ronell Smith Jr., Samia Smith, and Liam Smith; his
21 great-grandchildren, Alijah Bradford and Demi Hampton; six

1 siblings; and a host of nieces, nephews, cousins, and friends;
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 Raymond Smith Jr. and extend our sincere condolences to his
6 family, friends, and all who knew and loved him; and be it
7 further

8 RESOLVED, That a suitable copy of this resolution be
9 presented to the family of Raymond Smith as an expression of
10 our deepest sympathy.