



SR0829

LRB104 22208 MST 38517 r

1 SENATE RESOLUTION

2 WHEREAS, The members of the Illinois Senate are saddened
3 to learn of the death of Bishop George Lee Dowell of Danville,
4 who passed away on May 11, 2026 at the age of 78; and

5 WHEREAS, Bishop Dowell was born in Atoka, Tennessee to
6 D.C. and Alberta C. Dowell on August 7, 1947; he graduated from
7 Danville High School, where he was a star in football,
8 basketball, and track; he served in the U.S. Navy and was
9 honorably discharged on October 18, 1972; he married Shanae
10 Camille Street on September 14, 1973; and

11 WHEREAS, Bishop Dowell returned to Danville and began his
12 career working at the Danville Veterans Administration Medical
13 Center as a nursing assistant and substance abuse counselor;
14 he later worked as a deputy sheriff, a supervisor at Wyman
15 Gordon, and an employee of the Danville Correctional Center,
16 from which he retired as third shift supervisor/captain; after
17 his retirement, he worked as a bailiff for the Vermilion
18 County Circuit Court of the 5th Judicial Court for
19 approximately 13 years; during his career, he returned to
20 school as an adult and earned an associate's degree in police
21 science; and

22 WHEREAS, Bishop Dowell was ordained in 1976 and served as

1 the minister at Collett Street Church of Christ for 30 years
2 and as interim pastor for other ministries for approximately
3 seven years; he founded the 21st Century Christian Worship
4 Center in 2013 and served as the administrator overseeing the
5 entire workings of the church; he trained and ordained many
6 individuals who are now serving in the ministry; he worked a
7 full-time job while maintaining the church and donated his
8 salary to the youth department and others in need; and

9 WHEREAS, Bishop Dowell served as a member of the Civic
10 Center Board, the Martin Luther King Jr. Scholarship
11 Committee, and the Board of Fire & Police Commissioners; and

12 WHEREAS, Bishop Dowell was affectionately known as "Tae
13 Tae"; he enjoyed spending quality time with his entire family
14 and was best known for preaching the gospel, his kindness and
15 humble spirit, and, most of all, his endless jokes and unique
16 sense of humor; and

17 WHEREAS, Bishop Dowell was preceded in death by his
18 parents and his siblings, Edgar, Richard, James, Ronnie,
19 Michael, and Anna Pearl; and

20 WHEREAS, Bishop Dowell is survived by his wife, Shanae;
21 his children, Cicely M. (Christopher) Knight, Asha M. Dowell,
22 and Ryan W. (Patsy) Dowell; his grandchildren, Jaron M. (Lana)

1 Cunningham, Jordan M. (Ahmani) Cunningham, Tristan Pratt,
2 Julius Dowell, Anna Dowell, Royce Dowell, and Nysa Dowell; his
3 great-grandchildren, Imani, Amiyah, Layla, Eleanor, Jayce, and
4 Marlowe; his siblings, Allie Mae Cotton, Thomas Dowell, and
5 Carolyn Dowell; his spiritual children and grandchildren,
6 Travis (Diana) Henderson, Jason Haskins, Thomas (Jackay) Rose,
7 Martha (Addy) Adamore, Alexis (Randall) Espinoza, Megan
8 (Payton) Mattingly, and Markiah, Tharijah, and Thadeson Rose;
9 his special nieces and nephews, Calvin Dowell, and Janelle,
10 Emil, and Aaron Hall; his special aunt, Lois Hayes; and his
11 special friend, Honorable Circuit Court Judge Claudia
12 Anderson; therefore, be it

13 RESOLVED, BY THE SENATE OF THE ONE HUNDRED FOURTH GENERAL
14 ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, that we mourn the passing of
15 Bishop George Lee Dowell and extend our sincere condolences to
16 his family, friends, and all who knew and loved him; and be it
17 further

18 RESOLVED, That a suitable copy of this resolution be
19 presented to the family of Bishop Dowell as an expression of
20 our deepest sympathy.