



SR0834

LRB104 13068 MST 25002 r

1 SENATE RESOLUTION

2 WHEREAS, The members of the Illinois Senate are saddened  
3 to learn of the death of Willie Mae (Frazier) Hemphill, who  
4 passed away on March 25, 2025; and

5 WHEREAS, Willie Hemphill was born in Little Rock, Arkansas  
6 to Fred and Ethel Lee Frazier on October 4, 1942, the sixth of  
7 15 siblings; she attended Hayti Central School in Hayti,  
8 Missouri; she married James "Teddy" Hemphill in 1961, becoming  
9 stepmother to his sons, Anthony and Derrick, and eventually  
10 mother to Carlos, Sedrick, and Timothy; and

11 WHEREAS, Willie Hemphill's family moved to Chicago, where  
12 she managed several restaurants; she returned to Little Rock  
13 after her sons graduated from high school and pursued a career  
14 in the medical field, where she worked as a lab technician and  
15 phlebotomist; she also worked as a substitute teacher for the  
16 Little Rock School District and eventually retired from the  
17 State of Arkansas; and

18 WHEREAS, Willie Hemphill had a passion for service and  
19 served as assistant caretaker for Daisy Bates, the prominent  
20 activist and leader of the Little Rock Nine, who played a  
21 pivotal role in ending school segregation; and

1       WHEREAS, Willie Hemphill was affectionately known as  
2       Willie Mae, Willie, or Mae; she was a member of St. John's  
3       Missionary Baptist Church in Little Rock and then Fellowship  
4       Missionary Baptist Church in Chicago; and

5       WHEREAS, Willie Hemphill returned to Chicago and  
6       volunteered with the Community Table until October 2025;  
7       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      Willie Mae (Frazier) Hemphill and extend our sincere  
11      condolences to her family, friends, and all who knew and loved  
12      her; and be it further

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