



SR0838

LRB104 13489 MST 25935 r

1 SENATE RESOLUTION

2 WHEREAS, The members of the Illinois Senate are saddened
3 to learn of the death of Joane Margaret Watkins; and

4 WHEREAS, Joane Watkins was born in Chicago to Parks and
5 Louise (Thompson) Watkins on August 15, 1935; she graduated in
6 1953 from John Marshall High School and attended Roosevelt
7 University while working as a caseworker for the Department of
8 Human Services in the Austin, Garfield, and Lawndale
9 communities; and

10 WHEREAS, Joane Watkins was the matriarch of the
11 Thompson-Watkins Family Tree and a descendant of the freed
12 slave, Wade Watkins from Halls, Tennessee; and

13 WHEREAS, Joane Watkins enjoyed volunteering, family
14 events, music, dancing, and traveling; and

15 WHEREAS, Joane Watkins received a birthday resolution from
16 President Obama for her 80th Birthday; she received the 2025
17 President's Lifetime Achievement Award and a congratulatory
18 award letter from President Biden for serving over 50,000
19 volunteer hours in the Austin community as a board member of,
20 Diondai's Place Breast Cancer Support; she enjoyed mentoring
21 and participating in events at the Austin Branch Library and

1 the Goodman Theatre, as well as Lupus walks, the Juneteenth
2 Peace Walk, and many others; and

3 WHEREAS, Joane Watkins was preceded in death by her
4 parents; her children, Louis Michael and Barbara; and her
5 siblings, Lawrence and Lorraine Watkins, Lillian Broussard,
6 Laura Harden, Lenora Godwin, Lois Davis, Barbara Harden, and
7 Nancy Bains; and

8 WHEREAS, Joane Watkins is survived by her children, Sheila
9 (Ronald) Smith, Sharon Cobbs, Diondai (Edwin Jr.)
10 Brown-Whitfield, Joseph (Karen) Veal, Judith Stroger, and G.
11 Sean Crittleton; 17 grandchildren; 30 great-grandchildren; 12
12 great-great-grandchildren; and numerous nieces, nephews,
13 cousins, extended family, and friends; therefore, be it

14 RESOLVED, BY THE SENATE OF THE ONE HUNDRED FOURTH GENERAL
15 ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, that we mourn the passing of
16 Joane Margaret Watkins and extend our sincere condolences to
17 her family, friends, and all who knew and loved her; and be it
18 further

19 RESOLVED, That a suitable copy of this resolution be
20 presented to the family of Joane Watkins as an expression of
21 our deepest sympathy.