



SR0850

LRB104 21425 MST 36464 r

1 SENATE RESOLUTION

2 WHEREAS, The members of the Illinois Senate are saddened
3 to learn of the death of Estella Odneal Oden, who passed away
4 on March 29, 2026; and

5 WHEREAS, Estella Oden was born in Columbus, Mississippi to
6 Earnest and Levella (Humphries) Odneal on April 21, 1948; she
7 committed to her faith at an early age at Oak Grove Missionary
8 Baptist Church in Columbus; she graduated from the Fifth
9 Street School in West Point, Mississippi in May 1967 and
10 received an Associates of Applied Science from Mary Holmes
11 College in 1970; and

12 WHEREAS, Estella Oden began her career in education as a
13 second grade teacher's assistant with the Mississippi public
14 school system starting in the summer of 1969 and taught sixth
15 grade from 1970 to 1972; and

16 WHEREAS, Estella Oden married Jim Willis Oden on December
17 19, 1971, and they relocated to Chicago in 1972; she began
18 working at Montgomery Wards shortly after arriving and took
19 classes at Kennedy King College in business communications;
20 she earned her cosmetology license from the Cannella School of
21 Hair Design in 1999; she worked at Marshall Fields for a brief
22 time before deciding to return to her first calling,

1 education, in 2001; and

2 WHEREAS, Estella Oden began working for the Chicago Public
3 Schools, starting at William Multiplex Elementary School in
4 November 2003 as a guidance counselor aide; she took courses
5 to become a special education classroom assistant at the
6 Mississippi University for Women in Columbus, Mississippi and
7 worked as such until she retired; and

8 WHEREAS, Estella Oden was affectionately known as
9 "Sweetie"; she enjoyed tending to her flowers and plants in
10 the yard, spending time with her family and friends, and
11 traveling; and

12 WHEREAS, Estella Oden was preceded in death by her
13 parents; her brothers, William, Arthur, and TC; her sister,
14 Rosie; her son, Jim Marcus Oden; and her daughter-in-life,
15 Candle (Hudson); and

16 WHEREAS, Estella Oden is survived by her husband of 54
17 years, Jim Willis Oden; her siblings, Louis (Betty), Allison,
18 Earnest (Rosie), and Carrie; her sons, Timothy (Robin) and
19 Derrick Oden; her grandchildren, Diauntae, Jayla, Parish,
20 Bryce, Kayla, Kameron, and Jewel; and numerous brothers and
21 sisters-in-life, nieces, nephews, friends, and acquaintances;
22 therefore, be it

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

6 RESOLVED, That a suitable copy of this resolution be
7 presented to the family of Estella Oden as a symbol of our
8 deepest sympathy.