



SR0852

LRB104 21996 LAW 38010 r

1 SENATE RESOLUTION

2 WHEREAS, The members of the Illinois Senate are saddened
3 to learn of the death of Celeste Cavalier Banks Sawyer Taylor,
4 who passed away on May 10, 2026; and

5 WHEREAS, Celeste Taylor was born to Willie Winslow Banks
6 and Henrietta Odalie Bryant Banks in New Orleans, Louisiana on
7 September 3, 1935; while residing in New Orleans, she attended
8 Berean Center Kindergarten, McDonogh #36 Elementary School,
9 Valena C. Jones Elementary School, Gilbert Academy, and
10 McDonogh #35 Senior High School; and

11 WHEREAS, Celeste Taylor proceeded to attend Alabama State
12 University in Montgomery and DePaul University in Chicago;
13 during her studies, she became a member of Alpha Kappa Alpha
14 Sorority, Incorporated in 1954; and

15 WHEREAS, Celeste Taylor married Eugene Sawyer Jr., and
16 they had three children; she later married Roosevelt Taylor
17 Jr., and she became a stepmother and step-grandmother; and

18 WHEREAS, Celeste Taylor committed to her faith at an early
19 age, being first baptized as an infant at First Street
20 Methodist Church in New Orleans; upon her request as a young
21 adult, she received her second baptism, again at First Street

1 Methodist Church; in Illinois, she obtained her third baptism
2 by immersion at Wesley United Methodist Church in Harvey in
3 1983; and

4 WHEREAS, Celeste Taylor was preceded in death by her
5 sister, Adelaide "A.J."; her first husband; her second
6 husband; and her infant granddaughter, Shannon Eugene Sawyer;
7 and

8 WHEREAS, Celeste Taylor is survived by her children,
9 Shedrick Eugene, Sheryl Celeste, and Roderick Terrence; her
10 children-in-law, Winston B. McGill Jr. and Cheryll Denise
11 Aikens; her grandchildren, Jessica Celeste Sawyer, Alexandria
12 Roswita Sawyer, Sydni Celeste Sawyer, and Roderick Terrence
13 "Sonny" Sawyer Jr.; her great-granddaughter, Mason Rose
14 Robinson; her stepchildren, Roseylyne, Rhoda, and Rachel; her
15 step-grandchildren; her siblings; her nieces, nephews, and
16 cousins; her St. Mark A.M.E. Zion Church family; and her
17 friends and neighbors; therefore, be it

18 RESOLVED, BY THE SENATE OF THE ONE HUNDRED FOURTH GENERAL
19 ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, that we mourn the passing of
20 Celeste Cavalier Banks Sawyer Taylor and extend our sincere
21 condolences to her family, friends, and all who knew and loved
22 her; and be it further

1 RESOLVED, That a suitable copy of this resolution be
2 presented to the family of Celeste Taylor as an expression of
3 our deepest sympathy.