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HOUSE RESOLUTION

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WHEREAS, The members of the Illinois House of Representatives are saddened to learn of the death of Izola White of Chicago, who passed away on April 10, 2018; and

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WHEREAS, Izola White was born in Kenton, Tennessee; she came north to Chicago in the early 1940s as part of the Great Migration; she worked as a waitress in other restaurants before opening her own in 1957; and

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WHEREAS, Izola White's soul food restaurant opened at a time when black patrons were not welcomed in many restaurants outside the city's Black Belt; it was a landmark in Chicago's Chatham neighborhood until it closed in 2010; she offered home-style cooking and a friendly atmosphere that drew generations of locals, business owners, police officers, and politicians; and

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WHEREAS, Many people got their first jobs from Izola White; she hired people who could not get hired anywhere else and trained them to cook; she became a mother figure to many of the younger patrons; she often gave people credit or let them eat for free; and

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WHEREAS, Izola White hosted regular political fundraisers

1 at her restaurant and provided a meeting place for politicians,  
2 both established and those on the way up, including Barack  
3 Obama, the late Chicago Mayor Harold Washington, and the  
4 current mayor, Rahm Emanuel; she sponsored a number of Little  
5 League baseball teams; and

6 WHEREAS, Izola White and her restaurant were staples of the  
7 community; she believed in giving back to her community, and  
8 her restaurant was symbolic of charitable endeavors;  
9 therefore, be it

10 RESOLVED, BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE  
11 HUNDREDTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, that we  
12 mourn the passing of Izola White and extend our sincere  
13 condolences to all who knew and loved her.