



HR1095

LRB100 21957 ALS 39955 r

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HOUSE RESOLUTION

2 WHEREAS, The members of the Illinois House of
3 Representatives wish to recognize Pastor John H. Sr. and
4 Minister Movita Rice for over 50 years of dedication to the
5 ministry; and

6 WHEREAS, Pastor Rice was born in Starkville, Mississippi
7 and moved to Chicago Heights at the age of four; after
8 graduating high school, he spent two years in Los Angeles; he
9 returned to Chicago Heights in 1959 to marry Movita Tate; and

10 WHEREAS, Pastor Rice was appointed to St. Bethel M.B.
11 Church in 1970; after 40 years of dedicated service, he retired
12 from his role of pastor, but not from preaching; as pastor, he
13 organized many community outreach ministries, including
14 clothing drives, community feedings, Thanksgiving and
15 Christmas food baskets, and Christmas toy drives; and

16 WHEREAS, Pastor Rice's greatest accomplishment was the
17 development of the Bethel Community Facility (BCF), a 25,000
18 square foot edifice often referred to as "The Miracle of
19 Portland Avenue"; the facility offers many services to
20 low-income individuals, including after-school tutoring,
21 computer training, rent and utility assistance, GED programs,
22 emergency food and shelter, performing arts camp, summer day

1 camp, a fully-equipped medical center and pharmacy, and a 5,400
2 square foot gymnasium; and

3 WHEREAS, As Executive Director of the BCF, Pastor Rice
4 spearheaded a program for the homeless that provided free
5 showers, barber and cosmetology services, health screenings,
6 job training and placement, mailboxes, meals, and ID cards; in
7 2004, a shelter and warming center were added to the program;
8 and

9 WHEREAS, Pastor Rice's other accomplishments include
10 opening Bethel Annex, a 50,000 square foot building used to
11 house local businesses, new entrepreneurs, and expanded
12 community programs; and

13 WHEREAS, Pastor Rice has received many awards and
14 recognitions, including a Letter of Proclamation from the City
15 of Chicago Heights that declares the fourth Sunday in June
16 "Rev. John H. Rice Day," the Dr. Charles E. Gavin Top Brass
17 Award, the Chicago Heights City Council Dreamer of the Year
18 Award, the renaming of Fifth Avenue to "Rev. John H. Rice Way,"
19 and letters of congratulations from President Clinton,
20 President Obama, and Governor Quinn; and

21 WHEREAS, Pastor and Minister Rice have touched many lives
22 during their years of dedicated service and are most proud of

1 answering the call to serve other people; therefore, be it

2 RESOLVED, BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE
3 HUNDREDTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, that we
4 recognize Pastor John H. Sr. and Minister Movita Rice, and we
5 commend their years of dedication to the ministry; and be it
6 further

7 RESOLVED, That a suitable copy of this resolution be
8 presented to Pastor and Minister Rice as an expression of our
9 esteem and respect.