



HR1359

LRB100 24520 MST 43843 r

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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 Chester Slaughter, who passed away on December 23, 2018; and

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WHEREAS, Chester Slaughter was born in Chicago to Freida Williams on January 25, 1943; he attended William Shakespeare Elementary School and graduated from Hyde Park High School in 1961, where he excelled as a student and was a standout two-sport athlete in football and track; he graduated from Tennessee State University in 1965, where he was a member of Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity Inc. Beta Omicron Chapter, and received his Juris Doctorate in 1968 from the Howard University School of Law, where he participated in the Howard Law Journal; he married Ruth M. Willis, and they settled in Chicago; and

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WHEREAS, Chester Slaughter had a distinguished 46-year career as an attorney, legal expert, community advocate, political advisor, and mentor; he was part of the firms of Howard, Mann, & Slaughter, Smith & Sumner, Lyle & Slaughter, and Chester Slaughter & Associates; he was known as a fierce competitor in the courtroom, had a reputation for being exceptionally knowledgeable about the law, and always aggressively fought for his clients to receive their due process; and

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1 WHEREAS, Chester Slaughter also worked as Cook County
2 Assistant State's Attorney, General Counsel for the Maywood
3 Park District, and hearing officer for the Cook County
4 Metropolitan Water Reclamation District; he was involved with
5 the Cook County Bar Association, where he served as past
6 President; and

7 WHEREAS, Chester Slaughter was a social justice advocate
8 and believed in justice and employment for African Americans;
9 he focused on the career development of aspiring young minority
10 lawyers and utilized his leadership post at the Cook County Bar
11 Association to launch the organization's first job fairs; he
12 was a long-standing board member for the John Howard
13 Association, where he actively spearheaded initiatives to
14 protect the rights of women prisoners; and

15 WHEREAS, Chester Slaughter was as an adjunct professor and
16 lecturer at the University of Chicago Law School and
17 Northwestern University School of Law; he was a supporter of
18 the 6th and 21st Ward Democratic organizations, where he worked
19 on local political campaigns; he also cherished the brotherhood
20 of Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity Incorporated, where he was active
21 in the Xi Lambda Alumni Chapter and the Beta Omicron Foundation
22 and was instrumental in establishing their student scholarship
23 initiative; he was also active with the Chicago Assembly and

1 the Chicago Chapter of the Tennessee State University Alumni
2 Association; and

3 WHEREAS, Chester Slaughter was a member of Saint Edmund
4 Episcopal Church, where he was active in church activities,
5 programs, and clubs; he also became a board member of the Saint
6 Edmund's Redevelopment Corporation, where he was instrumental
7 in efforts to provide affordable housing in the Washington Park
8 neighborhood; and

9 WHEREAS, Chester Slaughter was a sports enthusiast; he was
10 a member of the Chicago Snow Gophers and a competitive skier;
11 he founded the Chicago South Swim Club and was also a United
12 States Swimming Association Official; he was a basketball
13 fanatic and enjoyed traveling around the country watching his
14 two sons play basketball at the collegiate level; known for his
15 love of cooking and well-dressed style, his family was always
16 his top priority; and

17 WHEREAS, Chester Slaughter was preceded in death by his
18 mother and father-in-law, Inez and John W. Willis; his aunts,
19 Corine Slaughter and Earline Shelby; his uncles, George
20 Slaughter Jr. and Theodore Slaughter; numerous cousins, great-
21 nieces, nephews, and friends; and his beloved granddog, Ace
22 Slaughter; and

1 WHEREAS, Chester Slaughter is survived by his wife of 49
2 years, Ruth; his sons, Craig (Jennifer Eckert) and Justin
3 (Catrena) Slaughter; his mother, Freida Williams; his
4 grandson, Russell Slaughter; his brothers-in-law, John W.
5 (Bertha) Willis Jr., Victor Willis, and Leroy (Pamela) Willis
6 Sr.; his sisters-in-law, Patricia Willis and Thelma Green; and
7 his aunts, Louise Cornelius and Joan Price; therefore, be it

8 RESOLVED, BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE
9 HUNDREDTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, that we
10 mourn the passing of Chester Slaughter and extend our sincere
11 condolences to his family, friends, and all who knew and loved
12 him; and be it further

13 RESOLVED, That a suitable copy of this resolution be
14 presented to the family of Chester Slaughter as an expression
15 of our deepest sympathy.