



SR1027

LRB100 15274 ALS 30193 r

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SENATE RESOLUTION

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WHEREAS, The members of the Illinois Senate are saddened to learn of the death of Leola Williams Robinson White of Chicago, who passed away on October 16, 2017; and

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WHEREAS, Leola White was born in Natchez, Mississippi to Anna and Claude Williams on April 5, 1915; she was one of ten children; she left school in the fourth grade to help pick cotton and take care of her siblings and mother; she moved to Chicago in 1946; she later married Tommie White; and

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WHEREAS, Leola White worked on the assembly line at the Young Spring & Wire Company for 31 years; she also sold Avon; and

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WHEREAS, Leola White maintained her ties to Natchez and drove down South a few times a year to visit family, often taking young relatives along for the ride; and

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WHEREAS, Over the decades, Leola White's house in Chicago served as the first stop for many people, including her sister, three brothers, and hundreds of others, as they journeyed north from Mississippi, Alabama, Florida, Georgia, North Carolina, and Tennessee in search of a better life; they were offered a spot on her sofa or spare bed until they saved enough money for

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1 a place of their own; and

2 WHEREAS, Leola White was the oldest living member of the
3 First Corinthian Missionary Baptist Church, which she joined in
4 1946; she was President of the Missionary Society for over 47
5 years; she donated all of the money she made selling Avon to
6 the church; and

7 WHEREAS, Leola White was a resplendent dresser, especially
8 on Sundays; her outfits matched from head to toe, and she
9 accessorized with different hats; she loved the color purple
10 and gospel music, and enjoyed watching the Chicago Bulls,
11 turning to prayer when necessary to help the team; and

12 WHEREAS, Leola White was the matriarch of her family and
13 church; she leaves for her community, and especially for her
14 daughter Ann Anderson and her granddaughter Jacquie Algee, an
15 inspirational legacy of a life led with dignity and a focus on
16 helping others; therefore, be it

17 RESOLVED, BY THE SENATE OF THE ONE HUNDREDTH GENERAL
18 ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, that we mourn the passing of
19 Leola Williams Robinson White and extend our sincere
20 condolences to her family, friends, and all who knew and loved
21 her; and be it further

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