



SR2026

LRB100 23466 ALS 42499 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 Lorraine H. Morton of Evanston, who passed away on September 8, 2018; and

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WHEREAS, Lorraine Morton was born in Winston-Salem, North Carolina on December 8, 1918; the youngest of ten children, she earned a master's degree in Education from Northwestern University in 1942; while in Evanston, she met her husband, James Morton; after living in Tuskegee, Alabama, they returned to Evanston in 1953; and

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WHEREAS, Lorraine Morton began her career in District 65 at Foster Elementary School; in 1957, she made history as the first African-American educator in Evanston to break the color barrier and moved from the segregated Foster School to Nichols Middle School; she later taught at Chute Middle School; in 1977, she became the principal of Haven Middle School, where she remained until her retirement from District 65 in 1989; and

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WHEREAS, In 1982, Lorraine Morton was appointed Evanston 5th Ward Alderman, and she represented the City's 5th Ward until 1991; in 1993, she again made Evanston history when she was elected as the City's first African-American mayor; she was re-elected three times and remained in office until 2009,

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1 becoming the City's longest-serving mayor; and

2 WHEREAS, Lorraine Morton dedicated her life to serving the  
3 Evanston community as an educator and as a public officer;  
4 after leaving office, Lorraine Morton remained an active  
5 participant in the Evanston community; shortly after her  
6 retirement in 2009, the Lorraine H. Morton Civic Center was  
7 named in her honor; she will be remembered as a remarkable  
8 woman who was a valuable teacher, mentor, and friend; and

9 WHEREAS, Lorraine Morton was preceded in death by her  
10 husband; and

11 WHEREAS, Lorraine Morton is survived by her daughter and  
12 two granddaughters; therefore, be it

13 RESOLVED, BY THE SENATE OF THE ONE HUNDREDTH GENERAL  
14 ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, that we mourn the passing of  
15 Lorraine H. Morton and extend our sincere condolences to her  
16 family, friends, and all who knew and loved her; and be it  
17 further

18 RESOLVED, That a suitable copy of this resolution be  
19 presented to the family of Lorraine Morton as an expression of  
20 our deepest sympathy.