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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 Phillip Jackson of Chicago, who passed away on November 4, 2018; and

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WHEREAS, Phillip Jackson was born into and resided in public housing in Chicago; he attended 11 Chicago public schools and graduated from Roosevelt University with honors and a degree in philosophy; he studied education at the National College of Education; and

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WHEREAS, During his career, Phillip Jackson served as Vice President and Director of Operations for one of Chicago's oldest and largest chain of booksellers, President of EF/MS, a family-run business, Assistant Budget Director for the City of Chicago, Chief of Staff for the Chicago Public Schools, Chief Executive Officer for the Chicago Housing Authority, Chief for Education for the City of Chicago, and CEO for the Boys and Girls Clubs of Chicago; at the time of his death, he was the founder and chairperson of The Black Star Project, which was designed to help children and students realize their educational and life potential; and

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WHEREAS, The Black Star's signature initiatives include the national annual Million Father March that organized

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1 approximately one million fathers in more than 600 cities to  
2 take their children to school on the first school day, Saturday  
3 University, a system of free community-based learning centers  
4 designed to remediate and augment the reading, writing, and  
5 math skills of students in grades kindergarten through high  
6 school, and most recently, "All Things Economic," financial  
7 literacy programs; and

8 WHEREAS, Phillip Jackson received national attention for  
9 his work to eliminate the racial academic achievement gap; he  
10 was honored as an Education Champion of Change for America by  
11 The White House, a Champion of Social Justice by the Chicago  
12 African Americans in Philanthropy, the Citizen of the Year by  
13 Omega Psi Phi Fraternity, the Monarch Man of the Year in  
14 Education by Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, a Reclaim Our Youth  
15 Honoree by Operation Push, the Education Man of the Year for  
16 the Bud Billiken Parade, the Illinois Educator of the Year for  
17 the 7th Congressional District of Illinois, and the Ricky  
18 Birdsong Father of the Year Award for the State of Illinois by  
19 the Illinois Fatherhood Initiative; he was also named as one of  
20 the Chicago Defender's "50 Men of Excellence" and received the  
21 Cook County State's Attorney's Community Empowerment Award;  
22 and

23 WHEREAS, Phillip Jackson dedicated his life to educating  
24 poor urban children in the United States, providing

1 opportunities, and improving the quality of life for others;  
2 his life was a true testament to what is possible with hard  
3 work, perseverance, and dedication to a cause; he was an  
4 exemplary model of leadership for countless numbers of people  
5 and a true servant of the people; and

6 WHEREAS, Phillip Jackson is survived by his four sisters;  
7 therefore, be it

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

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