



HR0054

LRB101 07782 MST 52832 r

1 HOUSE RESOLUTION

2 WHEREAS, The members of the Illinois House of  
3 Representatives are saddened to learn of the death of Vater Mae  
4 Fite, who passed away on January 17, 2019; and

5 WHEREAS, Vater Fite was born in Carthage, Texas to Marvin  
6 and Selma Connor on September 28, 1914; she was baptized at the  
7 age of 7 at Mt. Zion CME Church in Carthage; she attended  
8 Carthage Colored High School and was a lifelong student; she  
9 married J.C. Lilly; and

10 WHEREAS, Vater Fite moved to California during World War II  
11 and worked as a welder of Navy battleship parts; she was proud  
12 of the distinction of being a female welder; she married Grady  
13 Fite; in 1950, upon the death of her second husband and the  
14 conclusion of WWII, she settled in Maywood to be near her  
15 children; and

16 WHEREAS, Vater Fite worked for the State of Illinois as a  
17 senior caregiver and retired after 30 years of service; she  
18 returned to Texas to be a caregiver to her mother until her  
19 passing; she then returned to Oak Park to reside with her  
20 sister; in 2015, she moved to Plainfield, where she resided for  
21 several years with her son and daughter-in-law; she then moved  
22 to Alden of Waterford in Aurora; and

1           WHEREAS, Vater Fite was a wonderful cook, loved music, and  
2           had a wry sense of humor; she pursued many artistic endeavors,  
3           including teaching herself to play the violin, sewing,  
4           sculpting, wood carving, and painting; she attended courses at  
5           the Art Institute of Chicago to master the art of watercolor  
6           and oil painting; she participated in local art programs and  
7           her work was recognized in the Oak Leaves newspaper; she was a  
8           Featured Artist at the New Oak Park Public Library and was an  
9           active member of the Oak Park Arms senior group and the Oak  
10          Park Arts Council; and

11          WHEREAS, Vater Fite was remembered on her 100th birthday by  
12          the Governor of Illinois and President of the United States  
13          Barack Obama; and

14          WHEREAS, Vater Fite was affectionately known as "Grand";  
15          she was an avid reader and loved to travel; she was a lifelong  
16          baseball fan and cheered on her favorite team, the Chicago  
17          Cubs, as they won the World Series in 2016; she enjoyed family  
18          gatherings filled with music, games, debates, and a good nip of  
19          gin; she was present at every family milestone, vacation, and  
20          holiday; and

21          WHEREAS, Vater Fite was preceded in death by her parents;  
22          her husband, Grady; her siblings, Herese, Inez, and Leon; her

1 daughters, Vater Jo, Billie June, and Gloria Marvis; and her  
2 grandson, Darius LeRoi Lilly; and

3 WHEREAS, Vater Fite is survived by her son, LeRoy (Barbara)  
4 Lilly; her grandchildren, Jerome Goodman, Iris James, Camille  
5 Lilly, Brian Lilly, Karen (Jasmyn) Lilly, Kevin Neal (Jackie),  
6 and April Braggs (Vincent); her great-grandchildren, Richard,  
7 Darius, Evan, Briana, VJ, Briaja, and Brian II; her  
8 great-great-grandchildren, Richard II and Aubrey; her nieces,  
9 Joy Bell and Melody Conners; and numerous great-nieces and  
10 nephews; therefore, be it

11 RESOLVED, BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE  
12 HUNDRED FIRST GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, that  
13 we mourn the passing of Vater Mae Fite and extend our sincere  
14 condolences to her family, friends, and all who knew and loved  
15 her; and be it further

16 RESOLVED, That a suitable copy of this resolution be  
17 presented to the family of Vater Fite as an expression of our  
18 deepest sympathy.