



HR0352

LRB101 12319 MST 60212 r

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HOUSE RESOLUTION

2           WHEREAS, The members of the Illinois House of  
3 Representatives are saddened to learn of the death of James Lee  
4 Falls Sr., who passed away on April 19, 2019; and

5           WHEREAS, James Falls was born in Pickens, Mississippi to  
6 Willie Allen and Izola (Woodcox) Falls on April 30, 1937; he  
7 attended Richland Vocational High School until his junior year  
8 and completed his education at Phillips High School in Chicago  
9 in 1959; he married Leonia in 1964; and

10           WHEREAS, From 1960 to 1977, James Falls worked as a bus boy  
11 and later as a manager at the department store Charles A.  
12 Stevens; in 1966, he took on a second job at night as a janitor  
13 with the University of Chicago; after a four-year  
14 apprenticeship, he worked as a building engineer, an  
15 opportunity only made available to people of color years after  
16 passage of the Civil Rights Act of 1964; by the time he and  
17 Leonia retired in 1999, they had acquired and sold over 24  
18 units of residential and commercial real estate; and

19           WHEREAS, James Falls was president of the 7700 S. Cornell  
20 Block Club Association and the Stony-Jeffery Citizens for  
21 Community Control; he was an active member of the 8th Ward  
22 Regular Democratic Organization and volunteered for numerous

1 civic organizations; he was a member of Greater Institutional  
2 A.M.E. Church for over 50 years, where he served as an usher;  
3 and

4 WHEREAS, James Falls enjoyed taking family road trips; he  
5 was an avid sports fan and especially enjoyed basketball,  
6 bowling, and attending his children's sporting events; and

7 WHEREAS, James Falls was preceded in death by his parents;  
8 his brothers, Willie Jr., Thomas, and Clarence; and his  
9 sisters, Allean, Doris, and Ruby; and

10 WHEREAS, James Falls is survived by his wife of 55 years,  
11 Leonia; his children, Gwendolyn (David), Rodney (Natalie), and  
12 James Jr. (Beverly); his grandchildren, Jeremy, Justin,  
13 Sydney, Jalynn, Raven, Milan, Gabrielle, and Zola; his  
14 siblings, John (Pat), Edward (Mary), Sam, Charles (Martha),  
15 Ruth (Howard), Carnear, and Homer (Dorothy); his  
16 siblings-in-law, BW, Elizabeth, Leomia (Delores), Mary, and  
17 Thomas; and a host of nieces and nephews; therefore, be it

18 RESOLVED, BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE  
19 HUNDRED FIRST GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, that  
20 we mourn the passing of James Lee Falls Sr. and extend our  
21 sincere condolences to his family, friends, and all who knew  
22 and loved him; and be it further

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