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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 Rev. William James Jenkins Sr., who passed away on Good Friday, April 19, 2019; and

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WHEREAS, Rev. Jenkins was born to William and Mary Jenkins in Autaugaville, Alabama on March 30, 1940; because he always shared whatever he had with his siblings, he became affectionately known as "Buddy"; and

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WHEREAS, While living in Alabama, Rev. Jenkins picked cotton in the hot sun to help his mom provide for his siblings; however, he was determined to live a better life and courageously migrated to Chicago in 1960; in Chicago, he worked at the Ashford Company, National Video, and, lastly, General Motors; and

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WHEREAS, On September 24, 1966, Rev. Jenkins organized the Lively Stone Missionary Baptist Church; Lively Stone held its first service at 3245 W. 15th Street but eventually relocated to 4938 W. Chicago Avenue, where it remains to this day; Rev. Jenkins remained a faithful and devoted Pastor for 47 years until his retirement in September 2013; and

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WHEREAS, Rev. Jenkins preached the Gospel with power and

1 authority, which afforded him the opportunity to meet many
2 friends and collaborate with peers along his ministerial
3 journey; his greatest ministerial collaboration was with three
4 West Side pastors: Pastor Cleve Minter, Pastor John Parker, and
5 Pastor Mack McCullum; together, they were affectionately known
6 as "The 4 Gospel Heavyweights"; they recorded two Gospel albums
7 and hosted revivals as they traveled around the country and to
8 Jerusalem; and

9 WHEREAS, Rev. Jenkins lived his life preaching, teaching,
10 and discipling others in the Gospel; hundreds of thousands of
11 people were impacted by his ministry via weekly radio
12 broadcasts, revivals, and missionary work; although he was a
13 highly sought-after preacher, he still visited the sick and
14 shut-in, attended celebrations and graduations, and performed
15 funerals and wedding ceremonies; in addition, he was the highly
16 respected patriarch of his family; he seldom raised his voice,
17 but his presence always commanded respect; and

18 WHEREAS, Rev. Jenkins was not only a local church pastor
19 but an activist who fought for the civil liberties of all
20 people; as a result, he received innumerable awards and
21 recognition from aldermen, senators, and other organizations
22 for his contributions to his community; he was also
23 instrumental in electing Mayor Harold Washington, Chicago's
24 first African-American mayor; and

1 WHEREAS, Despite coming from humble beginnings and with
2 limited education, Rev. Jenkins became a successful
3 entrepreneur and established several businesses, including
4 Human Enhancement Services, P & J Towing, Pickup & Dropoff
5 Transportation, a hand carwash, a laundromat, a beauty shop,
6 and a beauty supply store, where he employed family, friends,
7 parishioners, and members of the community; and

8 WHEREAS, Rev. Jenkins was preceded in death by his parents;
9 his brother, Doug; his sisters, Ida Mae Steele and Daisy Mae
10 Bert; and his children, Jacqueline Jenkins and twins, Marilyn
11 and Melvin Jenkins; and

12 WHEREAS, Rev. Jenkins is survived by his devoted and loving
13 wife of 50 years, Mrs. Lula Jenkins; his children, Pastor
14 William Jr. (Diane), Pastor Eddie (Patricia), Shirley
15 (Robert), Marcell (Larry), Minister Windol (Josephine), Ivory,
16 LaNisha (Donnell), and Pastor Contrell (Lenkisha); his godson,
17 Adrian Dean; his sisters, Minnie Hammond and Atlean Perry
18 (Robert); his brother, Clemon Chappell (Rosemary); his special
19 aunt, Stella Brown; his best friend, Deacon Robert Perry; 24
20 grandchildren; 29 great-grandchildren; and a host of nieces,
21 nephews, cousins, and spiritual sons and daughters across this
22 nation; therefore, be it

1 RESOLVED, BY THE SENATE OF THE ONE HUNDRED FIRST GENERAL
2 ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, that we mourn the passing of
3 Rev. William Jenkins Sr. and extend our sincere condolences to
4 his family, friends, and all who knew and loved him; and be it
5 further

6 RESOLVED, That a suitable copy of this resolution be
7 presented to the family of Rev. Jenkins and to the Lively Stone
8 Missionary Baptist Church.