



SR0385

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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 Doloris Cotton-Gaines, who passed away on April 13, 2019; and

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WHEREAS, Doloris Cotton-Gaines was born in Cairo on December 26, 1950; she attended elementary school and Sumner High School in Cairo, segregated schools which became an important focal point of the Civil Rights Movement; eventually, the schools were desegregated and she transferred to Cairo High School, where she graduated in 1969; this experience instilled a "fighting spirit" in her and a desire to assist others; she married Dr. Sam Gaines on June 14, 1980; and

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WHEREAS, Doloris Cotton-Gaines became a licensed practical nurse and worked at St. Mary's Hospital; in 1976, she relocated to Springfield and began working at Memorial Hospital and Springfield Clinic; her experiences covered Obstetrics, Pediatrics, Emergency Medicine, Oncology, Internal Medicine, and Nephrology; she also worked as a nurse supervisor on weekends at a local nursing care facility; she continued her education and obtained two degrees in science and biology; she became a registered nurse after graduating from Lincoln Land Community College School of Nursing in 1993; she continued working at the Illinois Department of Human Services/Office of

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1 Rehabilitation Services for over ten years before retiring; and

2 WHEREAS, Doloris Cotton-Gaines enjoyed church and was  
3 involved in Sunday school, ushering, and Church Women United;  
4 she held the position of Superintendent of Sunday Schools; and

5 WHEREAS, Doloris Cotton-Gaines held membership in the  
6 former Sangamon County Medical Society Alliance and various  
7 other organizations; she was graceful, friendly, loving, kind  
8 and completely devoted to her family; many turned to her for  
9 advice and guidance; she will be remembered for her smile,  
10 laugh, and unforgettable eye rolls; and

11 WHEREAS, Doloris Cotton-Gaines was preceded in death by her  
12 grandmother, Alberta McGee; her father, John Thomas Crouch; her  
13 mother, Beatrice "Mrs. Bea" McDowan Cotton; her uncle and aunt,  
14 Willie and Mary Hudson; and her son, Terry Eugene Gaines; and

15 WHEREAS, Doloris Cotton-Gaines is survived by her husband,  
16 Sam; her children, Roberta L. Gaines, Michael (Shalanda)  
17 Gaines, Eulette M. Gaines, Samuel T. Gaines, and Samantha B.V.  
18 Gaines; and her grandchildren, Briana M. Gaines, Darius L.  
19 Ousley, Jalynn White, Alexa Carey, Amir Upshaw, and Mychael  
20 Gaines; therefore, be it

21 RESOLVED, BY THE SENATE OF THE ONE HUNDRED FIRST GENERAL

1 ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, that we mourn the passing of  
2 Doloris Cotton-Gaines and extend our sincere condolences to her  
3 family, friends, and all who knew and loved her; and be it  
4 further

5       RESOLVED, That a suitable copy of this resolution be  
6 presented to the family of Doloris Cotton-Gaines as an  
7 expression of our deepest sympathy.