



SR0935

LRB101 16234 MST 65607 r

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SENATE RESOLUTION

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WHEREAS, The members of the Illinois Senate are saddened to
3 learn of the death of Rev. Sylvester Smith Jr.; and

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WHEREAS, Rev. Smith was born in Nita Yuma, Mississippi to
5 Leona Dantzler and Sylvester Smith Sr. on October 31, 1926; as
6 a young man, he relocated to Chicago and settled in the
7 Bronzeville neighborhood; he joined the 44th St. Baptist
8 Church, where he served on the usher board; he married Naomi
9 Hill in May of 1949 and served in the military from 1954 to
10 1956; and

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WHEREAS, Rev. Smith worked for the Smith Transfer Company
12 (Huber & Huber) for 42 years; and

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WHEREAS, Rev. Smith graduated from Hope Bible College; in
14 1965, he was elected pastor of the newly-formed New Pisgah M.B.
15 Church, which grew over the years to include successful day
16 care and senior housing; he made educating children a priority
17 and advocated for daycare and Headstart funding and
18 legislation; he served as a mentor at Englewood High School and
19 enjoyed being a positive role model and frequently gave the
20 students motivational and inspiring talks; and

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WHEREAS, Rev. Smith was affectionately known as "Uncle

1 Junior"; he loved to repair cars and attended the Greer
2 Mechanic School; he was elected president of the Baptist
3 Minister's Alliance of Chicago and Vicinity for two terms; he
4 loved to attend the yearly National Baptist Conventions; he was
5 a world traveler and visited Israel, Mexico, Puerto Rico, the
6 Dominican Republic, the Bahamas and most major cities in the
7 United States; he enjoyed taking cruises and was his children's
8 biggest fan; and

9 WHEREAS, Rev. Smith was preceded in death by his wife of 62
10 years, Naomi; and

11 WHEREAS, Rev. Smith is survived by his children, Stanley
12 (Ruthie), Gloria, Denise, Pastor Wayne (Toi), and David
13 (Rhonda); his sister, Ethel Wilson; his brother, Albert Smith;
14 his grandchildren, Latreese, Bryan, Cha-chi, Chasty, and
15 Adoria; and his great-grandchildren, Devon, Brayden, and
16 Myles; therefore, be it

17 RESOLVED, BY THE SENATE OF THE ONE HUNDRED FIRST GENERAL
18 ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, that we mourn the passing of
19 Rev. Sylvester Smith Jr. and extend our sincere condolences to
20 his family, friends, and all who knew and loved him; and be it
21 further

22 RESOLVED, That a suitable copy of this resolution be

1 presented to the family of Rev. Smith as an expression of our
2 deepest sympathy.