



HR0572

LRB102 21975 ECR 31102 r

1

HOUSE RESOLUTION

2 WHEREAS, The members of the Illinois House of
3 Representatives are saddened to learn of the death of Janice
4 Marie Mitchell, who passed away on November 15, 2021; and

5 WHEREAS, Janice Mitchell was born to Ola Mae Babers and
6 LuArthur Washington in Natchitoches, Louisiana on February 1,
7 1963; she attended Weaver Elementary School, Natchitoches
8 Junior High School, and Natchitoches Central High School;
9 growing up, she was a member of the Second Baptist Church,
10 Junior Usher Board, 4-H Club, Junior ROTC, and later ROTC; she
11 served as Commander of the 378th Chemical Company of the U.S.
12 Army Reserves Unit; she attended Southern University and A & M
13 College in Baton Rouge, Louisiana where she obtained a
14 bachelor's degree in Social Work in 1986; she then graduated
15 from The University of Chicago with a master's degree in
16 Social Work in 1988; she married Daniel "Danny" Mitchell in
17 Natchitoches on May 27, 1989; and

18 WHEREAS, After moving to Urbana, Janice Mitchell worked
19 for various youth-serving organizations, including the
20 Cunningham Children's Home, the Illinois Department of
21 Children and Family Services, the Regional Office of
22 Education, and Urbana School District 116; in 2010, she became
23 founder and CEO of Urbana Neighborhood Connections Center,

1 Inc. (UNCC) which is a year-round community center that serves
2 between 50 and 100 Pre-K to 12th grade students during
3 after-school and summer programming hours; during the COVID-19
4 pandemic, UNCC's doors remained open all day to provide a
5 space for students to engage in virtual learning in a
6 supervised, supportive environment; she also started a cake
7 decorating business called "Mitchell's Sweet Creations"; and

8 WHEREAS, Janice Mitchell served as a parent volunteer in
9 the local schools and created programs to teach underserved
10 youth about their rich heritage as well as provide academic
11 and social-emotional enrichment; she founded "Prairie Tracks",
12 "Brothas & Sistas" and "Sankofa Summer Exposures" programs for
13 students at Prairie (Dr. Williams) Elementary and Urbana
14 Middle School; she took students on trips to museums, theme
15 parks, and college campuses all over the United States and
16 Canada; she facilitated the provision of scholarships and
17 laptops to several groups of graduating high school seniors in
18 Champaign County; she decorated multiple venues for various
19 occasions and worked alongside Urbana High School staff to
20 assist pregnant teen girls in attaining their diplomas; she
21 started the Urbana High School Equity & Social Justice Club,
22 founded the College & Career Readiness Program as an extension
23 of the center, and started the first youth praise dance
24 ministry at Jericho Missionary Baptist Church; and

1 WHEREAS, Janice Mitchell was an active member of the
2 Champaign County Housing Authority Board for 10 years; she
3 attended Jericho Missionary Baptist Church where she served as
4 usher board president and in countless other roles for over 25
5 years; in 2019, she was a founding member of the Greater
6 Philadelphia Baptist Church in Urbana where she served in the
7 usher ministry and as church clerk; and

8 WHEREAS, Janice Mitchell enjoyed sewing, cooking,
9 traveling back home to Louisiana to spend time with her
10 family, shopping in nearby major cities, and spending time
11 with close friends; she was well known for her loving nature
12 and unwavering service to her community, her faith, and her
13 nation; she will be most remembered for her spirit of
14 excellence, her passion for education, and her legacy of love;
15 and

16 WHEREAS, Janice Mitchell was preceded in death by her
17 parents and her sibling, Mary Lee; and

18 WHEREAS, Janice Mitchell is survived by her husband of 32
19 years, Danny; her children, Jeniece and Everette Mitchell; her
20 siblings, Ida, Susie, Gerlean, John, Shawn, and Glenda; her 28
21 nieces, nephews, great-nieces, and great-nephews; and her
22 godchildren, Lentroy Anderson, Tina Findley, Rakeem Sallee,
23 Donald "Ducky" Stewart, Celina White, and most recently baby

1 Erique "EJ" Wright; therefore, be it

2 RESOLVED, BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE
3 HUNDRED SECOND GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, that
4 we mourn the passing of Janice Marie Mitchell and extend our
5 sincere condolences to her family, friends, and all who knew
6 and loved her; and be it further

7 RESOLVED, That a suitable copy of this resolution be
8 presented to the family of Janice Mitchell as an expression of
9 our deepest sympathy.