



HR0660

LRB102 26078 ECR 35543 r

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HOUSE RESOLUTION

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WHEREAS, The members of the Illinois House of Representatives are saddened to learn of the death of Clarence Shelley of Champaign, who passed away on January 17, 2022; and

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WHEREAS, Clarence Shelley was born to Grady Shelley and Alma (Jones) Shelley in Detroit, Michigan on August 16, 1931; he graduated from Miller High School, where he wrote editorials for the school newspaper; he majored in Journalism at Wayne State University before deciding to become a high school English teacher; he was initiated into the Alpha Beta Chapter of Kappa Alpha Psi Fraternity, Inc. in 1951; his college education was interrupted when he began serving in the U.S. Army in 1952, and he was honorably discharged in 1954; he then returned to Wayne State, where he played on the football team and earned his bachelor's degree in English in 1957; he earned his master's degree in Education in 1965; he later married Sharon Ormsby; and

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WHEREAS, Clarence Shelley, after high school, worked as a dock worker with the Merchant Marines and on cruise ships on the Great Lakes; after graduating from college, he worked as an English teacher at Northeastern High School in Detroit for 10 years; he also counseled and mentored students and advised administrators at the Detroit Board of Education, the

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1 Cranbrook School in Michigan, Wayne State University, and  
2 Dartmouth College in New Hampshire; and

3 WHEREAS, After Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. was assassinated  
4 in 1968, Clarence Shelley was invited by Chancellor Jack  
5 Peltason of the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign to  
6 run a new program to support Black students; he became the  
7 first director of the new Special Education Opportunities  
8 Program and was charged with organizing one of the nation's  
9 earliest and largest recruitment efforts of Black students and  
10 students of color; his initiative, commonly known as Project  
11 500, aimed to bring more than 500 low-income Black students to  
12 the university in an effort to increase racial diversity, and  
13 he recruited approximately 580 Black students who would have  
14 probably not attended college otherwise; he was named dean of  
15 students in 1974, assistant vice chancellor in 1984, and  
16 associate vice chancellor for Student Affairs before his first  
17 retirement in 2001; he also served as special assistant to the  
18 chancellor and continued to develop cultural programming while  
19 acting as an ambassador to Black alumni and alumni of color  
20 until 2016; and

21 WHEREAS, Clarence Shelley served as an adviser to African  
22 American Young Men Moving; he also served as a chapter adviser  
23 to the Beta Chapter of Kappa Alpha Psi Fraternity, Inc. for 25  
24 years; and

1           WHEREAS, Clarence Shelley was awarded the UI Chancellor's  
2 Medallion for Service to the Campus and was one of 18  
3 remarkable individuals featured in the university's 150th  
4 anniversary publication for triggering innovation at the  
5 University of Illinois and beyond; he was recognized for his  
6 leadership and contributions by the American Civil Liberties  
7 Union, the Black Greek Council, the Interfraternity Council,  
8 La Casa Cultural Latina, the Asian Pacific American Student  
9 Coalition, and the UI Office of Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, and  
10 Transgender Concerns; and

11           WHEREAS, Clarence Shelley enjoyed film, football, train  
12 travel, and theater, including the Krannert Center and the  
13 Shakespeare Theater Festival; he also enjoyed entertaining his  
14 family and friends in his home and visiting his favorite  
15 spots, including Esquire Grill, Baxter's, Sun Singer, and  
16 occasionally Culver's; and

17           WHEREAS, Clarence Shelley was preceded in death by his  
18 parents and his siblings, Grady Shellie, William Shelley,  
19 Clara Butler, Susie Spivey, Helen Perkins, Constance Turner,  
20 and Barbara Myles; and

21           WHEREAS, Clarence Shelley is survived by his wife of 23  
22 years, Sharon Ormsby-Shelley; his daughters, Dana (Robert A.

1 Glasner) Vickers Shelley, Pamela-Alyse Shelley, and Courtney  
2 Walker; his son, Craig Walker; his sister, Carlotta Shelley;  
3 his brothers-in-law, Ronald (Reneé) G. Vickers and Matthew  
4 Tuite; his sister-in-law, Marveen Tuite; his grandchildren,  
5 Craig J. (Kasey) Walker Jr., Cory Sutton, Jordan (Megan)  
6 Walker, Danielle B. (Edwin) McGhee, Chase Walker, and David  
7 McKenzie; his nine great-grandchildren; his nieces and  
8 nephews; his Kappa Alpha Psi fraternity brothers; his friends;  
9 and his former students, mentees, and colleagues; therefore,  
10 be it

11 RESOLVED, BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE  
12 HUNDRED SECOND GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, that  
13 we mourn the passing of Clarence Shelley and extend our  
14 sincere condolences to his family, friends, and all who knew  
15 and loved him; and be it further

16 RESOLVED, That a suitable copy of this resolution be  
17 presented to the family of Clarence Shelley as an expression  
18 of our deepest sympathy.