



HR0735

LRB102 26730 LAW 37617 r

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HOUSE RESOLUTION

2 WHEREAS, The members of the Illinois House of
3 Representatives are saddened to learn of the death of Ina Dews
4 of Elgin, who passed away on March 9, 2022 at the age of 85;
5 and

6 WHEREAS, Ina Dews was born on March 8, 1937; she moved with
7 her family from Chicago to Elgin in 1964; she was a longtime
8 Elgin resident; and

9 WHEREAS, Ina Dews sacrificed her time, talents, and
10 financial resources, working to end discriminatory practices
11 in Elgin through her involvement with the Elgin Human
12 Relations Commission; she served on the commission until
13 February 2010; she also worked on various public
14 housing-related matters over the decades; and

15 WHEREAS, Ina Dews was heavily involved with her local
16 community in Elgin, helping at the summer Downtown Harvest
17 Market and assisting with the city's annual Martin Luther King
18 Day commemorations; she was also instrumental in persuading
19 the Elgin City Council to rename Route 20 "Martin Luther King
20 Drive"; and

21 WHEREAS, Ina Dews was an artist, particularly in making

1 quilts; she donated three quilts to the Illinois State Museum
2 in Springfield in 2008, one of which she made when she was 15
3 and the others were made by aunts who taught her quilt-making,
4 becoming the first quilts made by Black people to be added to
5 the museum's collection; and

6 WHEREAS, Ina Dews participated in religious missions that
7 took her to the Imbabazi Orphanage in Gisenyi, Rwanda in 2007,
8 during which she taught crocheting and quilting to children,
9 and to Zimbabwe in 1996, where she shared her passion for
10 knitting and quilting with street vendors and learned new
11 stitches; and

12 WHEREAS, Ina Dews was honored by the Illinois House of
13 Representatives and the City of Elgin to mark her 80th
14 birthday in 2017; and

15 WHEREAS, Ina Dews helped others to understand the past,
16 teaching timeless lessons of courage and endurance through her
17 legacy of community activism, service, and responsibility; she
18 served as a role model for younger generations; and

19 WHEREAS, Ina Dews was the mother of six children;
20 therefore, be it

21 RESOLVED, BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE

1 HUNDRED SECOND GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, that
2 we mourn the passing of Ina Dews and extend our sincere
3 condolences to her family, friends, and all who knew and loved
4 her; and be it further

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