



SR0218

LRB102 18054 ECR 25029 r

1

SENATE RESOLUTION

2

WHEREAS, The members of the Illinois Senate are saddened to learn of the death of Cleophus "Bill" Sanders, Ser Nefer Khar, who passed away on April 2, 2021; and

3

4

5

WHEREAS, Cleophus Sanders was born to Lula Wilkerson Sanders in Macon, Mississippi on October 13, 1933; after spending his earlier years working on a farm, he and his family moved to Chicago during the Great Migration; he delivered newspapers while attending James R. Doolittle Elementary School, and his family attended West Point M.B. Church; he graduated from Wendell Phillips High School in 1952; he married Annette Allen; after their marriage ended, he married Naomi Sanders on February 22, 1969, and they became a blended family with five children; and

6

7

8

9

10

11

12

13

14

15

WHEREAS, Cleophus Sanders worked as a machinist at the National Can Corporation for over 40 years; trusted by both management and his coworkers and known for his financial skills and honesty, he was tasked with keeping the financial books for the union; while working, he attended adult education classes at Chicago vocation schools and Bloom High School to advance his technical skills; and

16

17

18

19

20

21

22

WHEREAS, Cleophus Sanders volunteered his time and energy

1 to address injustices in his community; he was a life-long
2 learner, and he and Naomi explored many things together,
3 including African wisdom and health and nutrition; wanting to
4 foster health and wellness in his community, he was the
5 founder of the Itongo Natural Foods CoOp, which became a
6 community gathering place and hosted classes and visiting
7 lecturers on health and wellness topics; he was also a member
8 of the spiritual group the Ausar Auset Society International,
9 and he took the name Nefer Khar, which means one who sits among
10 the rulers; and

11 WHEREAS, Cleophus Sanders took a life changing trip to
12 Ghana, which he considered an invaluable experience; he loved
13 sports, especially the Chicago Bears, and jazz; he enjoyed
14 playing cards and doing puzzles, sharp clothes, tricks,
15 shooting pool, bowling, marbles, jokes, and laughter; and

16 WHEREAS, Cleophus Sanders was preceded in death by his
17 daughter, Sharon Cruikshank; his mother; and his two brothers,
18 Ray and Leonard; and

19 WHEREAS, Cleophus Sanders is survived by his wife of 53
20 years, Naomi 'Mickey' (Ser-t Reshiwa Het Herta); his five
21 loving children, Rasheedah, Karen, Menetti and Raheem, and
22 Carlos and Tanya; his son-in-law, William; his grandchildren,
23 Nademah, Zakiya, Saleem, Maryam, Amanah Taqwa, Khayeem, Heru

1 Kha Sah, Noni, Meri-t Ua, Keisha, Kwame, Kofi, Khumare, Kyle,
2 Kiela, Kameron, Cameron, Malcolm, Mariama, Essence, Rahsann,
3 and Todd; his 24 great-grandchildren, his six
4 great-great-grandchildren; his nieces and nephews, Diane,
5 Terry, Johnny, Cheryl, Bernice, Mable, Ella, Gary, and Dwayne;
6 his siblings, Isabelle, Tarvie (Jerome), Esther, Sarah, and
7 Charles; his Markham neighbors; and other Wayne and Wilkerson
8 family members; and numerous friends; therefore, be it

9 RESOLVED, BY THE SENATE OF THE ONE HUNDRED SECOND GENERAL
10 ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, that we mourn the passing of
11 Cleophus "Bill" Sanders, Ser Nefer Khar, and extend our
12 sincere condolences to his family, friends, and all who knew
13 and loved him; and be it further

14 RESOLVED, That a suitable copy of this resolution be
15 presented to the family of Cleophus Sanders as an expression
16 of our deepest sympathy.