



SR1095

LRB102 28231 LAW 40042 r

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SENATE RESOLUTION

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WHEREAS, The members of the Illinois Senate are saddened to learn of the death of Wadell Brooks Sr., who passed away on July 4, 2022; and

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WHEREAS, Wadell Brooks was born to Willie and Canary Brooks in Lexington, Mississippi on January 20, 1933; he was the first Black student to graduate from East St. Louis Senior High School and a centennial graduate of Illinois State Normal University; he earned his Bachelor of Science in Business Education, with a minor in Physical Education; he received two honorary doctoral degrees from Faith Grant College in Birmingham, Alabama; and

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WHEREAS, Wadell Brooks accepted his first position in federal civil service as an educational therapist under Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation Service in charge of Commercial Studies at the VA Medical Center, where he remained for 11 years; he then held several positions at the Great Lakes Naval Training Center, serving as educational specialist for two years, director of Housing Assignments/Referral Service for nine years, and deputy of the Equal Employment Opportunity Office for 11 years; he retired after completing 35 years of federal civil service on November 30, 1990, which included two years serving in the U.S. Army and 16 months in Korea, from

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1 which he received the Korean Service Medal; and

2 WHEREAS, Wadell Brooks started a business alongside his
3 wife in the human services field, creating a day care, infant
4 care, and group home for girls by securing financing
5 assistance from the Small Business Administration; and

6 WHEREAS, Wadell Brooks was deeply involved in community
7 activities; he initiated and hosted NAACP Focus, a weekly
8 radio talk show on WKRS-AM 1220 that aired every Sunday
9 morning; he also hosted the weekly local Comcast Community
10 Access talk show Community Forum on Channel 17, and he
11 received the Best of Lake County First Production by a
12 Producer Award for his show in 1994; and

13 WHEREAS, Wadell Brooks belonged to several organizations,
14 including District 64's Board of Education, the non-profit
15 Dads Are Doing Something, Inc., and the North Chicago District
16 187 Schools' Dads for Education; he was a past president of the
17 North Chicago Rotary Club, the North Chicago Branch of the
18 NAACP, and the North Chicago Chamber of Commerce; he served as
19 chairman and on the board of directors of the Lake County Race
20 Unity Task Force; he was a past master of Rufus Mitchell
21 Masonic Lodge #107, and he was named 1998 Prince Hall Mason of
22 the Year for the State of Illinois and earned the honorary 33rd
23 degree of masonry in 1988; he was also a past patron of Emblem

1 Chapter #140 of the Order of the Eastern Star; and

2 WHEREAS, Wadell Brooks committed to his faith at the
3 Southern Mission Baptist Church in East St. Louis at the age of
4 13; he later served as deacon of the Shiloh Baptist Church and
5 as trustee of the Mt. Sinai Institutional Baptist Church; and

6 WHEREAS, Wadell Brooks received a number of accolades,
7 including being named the 1984 Lake County Urban League
8 Business Person of the Year and the Most Influential African
9 American of Lake County; he received the 1996 Charles E.
10 DeRivera Memorial Award, the 1999 Life Models Award from the
11 Omni Society, and the 2002 David Kellum Award from the
12 National Spiritual Assembly of Baha'is of the United States of
13 America; therefore, be it

14 RESOLVED, BY THE SENATE OF THE ONE HUNDRED SECOND GENERAL
15 ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, that we mourn the passing of
16 Wadell Brooks Sr. and extend our sincere condolences to his
17 family, friends, and all who knew and loved him; and be it
18 further

19 RESOLVED, That a suitable copy of this resolution be
20 presented to the family of Wadell Brooks as an expression of
21 our deepest sympathy.