



SR1263

LRB102 20463 LAW 29324 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 Marion Louise "Penny" Sullivan Smith, who passed away on September 15, 2021; and

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WHEREAS, Marion Smith was born to the union of Roosevelt Pluitt and Ethel Sullivan in Chicago on September 15, 1933; she was raised in what is now known as the Bronzeville area of Chicago; she graduated from DuSable High School; and

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WHEREAS, Marion Smith was pursued by several modeling agencies and considered law school after high school; however, her love for family led her to begin a family of her own; and

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WHEREAS, Marion Smith was a hard worker with many talents; she could sew and construct anything; her home was always known as a showplace to all who visited; she will be remembered for being a strong family person who loved everyone and everyone loved; and

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WHEREAS, Marion Smith was the oldest living heir to one of America's heroic narratives; her grandmother, Carrie Williams, was the first in U.S. history to file a lawsuit for the rights of colored school teachers for equal pay in 1898; her case was ultimately heard before the West Virginia Supreme Court, which

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1 ruled in her favor during the Jim Crow Era, bolstering equal
2 education rights for African American students statewide; her
3 legacy was noted by President Barack Obama in a letter to the
4 family, where he thanked the Smith family for Carrie Williams'
5 contributions, which paved the way for others; and

6 WHEREAS, Marion Smith was preceded in death by her
7 siblings, Roosevelt Pluitt Jr., Ethel, Dorothy, Charles,
8 Constance, and Othello; she was also preceded in death by
9 three children, Lolita Smith-Oliver, Michael Smith, and Freddy
10 Smith; and

11 WHEREAS, Marion Smith is survived by her children, Fred
12 (Leonette) Smith, Sharon A. (Lee) Taylor, Hakeem A. (Avonda)
13 Muhammad, and Andre (LaZondra) Smith; her grandchildren; her
14 great-grandchildren; and a host of nieces, nephews, cousins,
15 and friends; therefore, be it

16 RESOLVED, BY THE SENATE OF THE ONE HUNDRED SECOND GENERAL
17 ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, that we mourn the passing of
18 Marion Louise "Penny" Sullivan Smith and extend our sincere
19 condolences to her family, friends, and all who knew and loved
20 her; and be it further

21 RESOLVED, That a suitable copy of this resolution be
22 presented to the family of Marion Smith as an expression of our

1 deepest sympathy.